



**KEVIN ARTL**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

### R&D Fix Passes House, Awaits Senate Action



On the last day of January, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, legislation that will provide engineering companies with relief from crippling tax increases and restore incentives to promote cutting-edge R&D.

**Why it matters:** The R&D amortization issue has been a priority for ACEC's advocacy efforts due to its significant negative impact on America's engineering industry.

With passage of H.R. 7024, the House voted to pause the five-year amortization mandate until 2026.

This restores the tax code's traditional approach to incentivize R&D by allowing engineering firms and other innovators to fully deduct R&D investments the year they are incurred. The bottom line: The House voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 7024 by a vote of 357 to 70. This sends a strong signal to the Senate to follow the House and approve its version of the bill.

**What's next:** H.R. 7024 now moves to the Senate. ACEC continues to urge its members to reach out to their Senators to support a yes vote to send the bill to the President's desk.

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## Nearly the Entire Illinois Delegation Supports R&D Fix



**A Big Thank You** to the 15 members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation who supported Illinois' innovators by fixing the Research and Development Tax Credit amortization issue.

From Capitol Hill visits to local roundtables, ACEC Illinois met with every member of the delegation to outline the need for a fix.

**Illinois Congressional Delegation supporting ACEC Illinois include:**

Congressman Mike Bost  
Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski  
Congressman Sean Casten  
Congressman Danny Davis  
Congressman Bill Foster  
Congressman Chuy Garcia  
Congresswoman Robin Kelly  
Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Congressman Darin LaHood  
Congresswoman Mary Miller  
Congressman Mike Quigley  
Congresswoman Delia Ramirez  
Congressman Brad Schneider  
Congressman Eric Sorensen  
Congresswoman Lauren Underwood

**Voting NO-Against ACEC Illinois:**

Congressman Jonathan Jackson  
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky



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## Join Us for Illinois State Capitol Lobby Day

Join ACEC Illinois and the Transportation for Illinois Coalition for our annual Lobby Day on March 5th, 2024, in Springfield, Illinois. The lobby day will begin with various speakers before we break for meetings with your local legislators and end with a reception at the Merchant House!

Our tentative agenda is included below, with Secretary Osman confirmed to be our first speaker.

If you'd like to attend the lobby day, you can fill out our [registration form here](#). Registrants

who fill out the form two weeks prior to the lobby day will have assistance in scheduling meetings with their local legislators by TFIC staff. Registrants who cannot meet the deadline can absolutely make their own meetings, or alternatively, TFIC will try to have a Capitol tour option available for those who would enjoy that.

Wrapping up our lobby day will be a reception held at the Merchant House in Springfield Illinois, beginning at 5pm on March 5th.

We hope you'll be able to join us for the Lobby Day and look forward to hearing from you!

### Lobby Day Agenda

10am-10:30am Meet at the Capitol Development Board Room on the third floor of the Stratton building

10:30am to 1pm: Invited Speakers include IDOT Secretary Osman, Deputy Governor Bria Scudder, Senate and House Transportation Committee Leaders and Infrastructure Legislative Champions, House and Senate Transportation Staffers and more.

1:30pm to 5pm: Break for individual legislative meetings.

5pm to 7pm: Reception at the Merchant House

*Upon registration, more details will be provided closer to the date.*

[Register Today](#)

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### *In the News*

[Early testing suggests highway guardrails not built for heavy EVs](#) (The Hill)

[House T&I Presses White House to Safeguard Supply Chain](#) (Transport Topics)

[What happens if the gas tax dries up? Mass. task force to look at new funding measures](#) (WBUR Radio)



### Register Today for Tollway MIQ Meeting

Move Illinois Quarterly Meeting  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 1:30 p.m.  
Westin Chicago Lombard  
Register [here](#)

This Move Illinois Quarterly meeting will focus on fostering discussion and capturing insight from industry around the four principles guiding the Illinois Tollway's Strategic and Capital Planning outlined by Governor JB Pritzker: Innovation; Sustainability; Equitable Economic Development; and Diversity and Inclusion. Participants will be asked to provide their thoughts, input and feedback to help inform the Tollway in its efforts to develop its next capital plan.

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Thanks,  
*Kevin Artl*  
President and CEO  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois

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THE ENGINEERING WORKS AWARD IS VOTED FOR BY YOU!  
PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK THROUGH THIS YEAR'S HONOR AWARDS AND THEN HELP SELECT THE BEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN ILLINOIS.

VOTE HERE

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### *"Engineering Works" Podcast*

ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews Steve Donahue, National director of ACEC Illinois and president of Horner Shifrin. Steve talks about ACEC National's efforts to advocate for a fix to the Research and Development Tax Credit, why it's a crucial issue for the industry, and a recent update that is a huge step in the right direction.



LISTEN HERE





ACEC ILLINOIS

*Interested in ACEC Illinois  
Board of Directors?*

1. Please complete the attached application and a letter of interest and email as attachments to: Emily@acecil.org
2. Subject line: Your Name - Board of Directors Application
3. Submission Deadline: March 15, 2024

APPLICATION HERE

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## COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



Michael Zorn  
Vice President  
Project Manager  
H.W. Lochner

How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

- Since at least 2009

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

- IDOT Region 1/District 1 Committee Chair, Subcommittee Chair for Outreach

to High School Students, Member of Liaison committees including Cook and Kane Counties.

**Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.**

- The goals of the Region 1 Liaison Committee are to support collaboration, communication, and innovation between IDOT District 1/Region 1 and the consulting community. We meet quarterly and now have six sub-committees: Phase I, Design, Construction, Digital Delivery, Drainage and Traffic Signal/Innovation.

**What's the number one reason people should join your committee?**

- The IDOT District 1 team and sub-committee members continuously collaborate closely to develop and provide seminars and webinars that inform and advise the industry on changes, innovations and expectations of doing work with IDOT. These collaborations are great opportunities to meet the IDOT team and show the value you can provide.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

- I love reading and currently am consuming Jon Meacham's biography of Lincoln and I'll be cheering on my three daughters at their high school and junior high show choir competitions this winter/spring.

**Tell us one fun fact about yourself.**

- I played basketball one on one against Michael Jordan. As a high school player I attended his basketball camp in the summer of 1988 at Elmhurst College. After camp one day he asked all the gathered campers if they wanted to play him one on one. We all lined up around the gym to get our turn and played him - he got the ball first and we played to one. I was around the 60th camper to get a turn and he had just hit 20 or so jumpers in a row from the top of the key. He checked the ball to me, I threw it back and got in my defensive stance at the free throw line, he looked me in the eye, raised up from the top of the key, made the shot and my turn was done. So like all the campers, I only lost 1-0.

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



**How long have you been in the engineering industry?**

- Mead & Hunt has been in the engineering industry since 1900, and we'll be celebrating our 125th anniversary next year. We're one of the oldest employee-owned firms in the industry.

**What projects are you currently working on?**

- IDOT Department of Aeronautics Staff Augmentation
- Five Year On-Call Contract with the Chicago Department of Aviation

- Working as an extension of staff for the IDOT Bureau of Airport Engineering
- Chicago Department of Aviation providing pre-construction planning services
- Sterling Riverfront Park design
- Sterling Central Memorial Park design

**What project are you most proud of?**

- We have a close partnership with the Bureau of Airport Engineering and are proud of the work we do to help move airport capital improvement projects across the State of Illinois.

**What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?**

- ACEC-IL offer the ability to be industry advocates, and they provide us information so we can make the best decisions for our firm.

**Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?**

- ACEC-IL is strong advocate for all member firms. They make sure that firms are aware of issues that impact the industry as a whole. ACEC-IL also offers member firms access to professional development opportunities and tools that employees can take advantage of.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS...**

**ACEC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Illinois*

VISIT: [acecil.org/events](http://acecil.org/events)

*Webinar Series*  
Presented by: ACEC IL  
Emerging Professional Committee

**ACEC  
ILLINOIS**

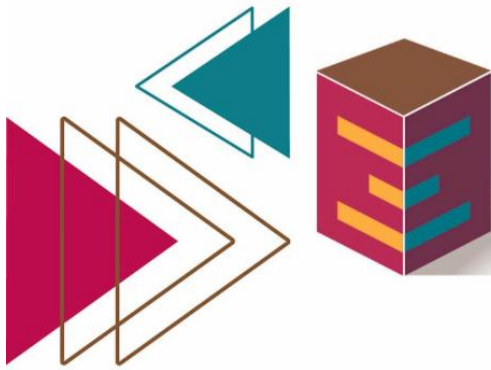
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST | NOON-1PM**  
ESG OR SOCIAL VALUE EQUITY AND INCLUSION, SAFETY

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH | NOON-1PM**  
DEVELOPING QAQC SKILLS / PEER REVIEW SKILLS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH | NOON-1PM**  
NETWORKING - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH | NOON-1PM**  
BEST PRACTICES OF INTEGRATING 3-D MODEL INTO THE WORK FLOW

[WEBINAR HERE](#)



ENGINEERING  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS **2024**  
DESIGNING THE FUTURE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

 **HYATT REGENCY O'HARE CHICAGO**

9300 Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Rosemont, IL 60018

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Illinois Tollway 2024 Design & Construction Practices Workshop

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024**  
**8:00AM - 5:00PM**



HILTON CHICAGO/ OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER  
3500 MIDWEST ROAD | OAK BROOK IL 60523

[REGISTER HERE](#)





**SATURDAY  
MARCH 9, 2024**

**8AM REGISTRATION  
9AM START**

**Berto Center  
550 Lake Cook Rd  
Deerfield, IL  
60015**

**HOSTED BY: ACEC Illinois  
Emerging Professionals  
Committee**

**\$200 a team  
3-5max players per team**

**Tournament Sponsorship: \$250**

All players shall either be a client of our members, an ACEC Illinois member or a significant other.

Registration provides:  
Water, Snack and T-shirt

**3x3**

**BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT**

Half court games

Play with 2 point  
& 3 point shots

No Free-throws

Bring a White Shirt  
& a Dark Shirt

Each team is  
guaranteed  
minimum 2 games



[REGISTER HERE](#)

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# REGIONAL LUNCHEON: METRA

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**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

**11:30am - 1:30pm**

Join us for an ACEC Illinois Regional Luncheon. This luncheon will host an update from Janice R. Thomas, Metra - Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs.

11:30am Networking  
Noon Lunch  
12:30pm Presentation  
1:30pm Conclusion



**Janice R. Thomas, Metra**  
Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs

**Maggiano's Little Italy Grand**  
516 N Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60654

Hosted by:



**LAUNCHING SOON!**

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# PSMJ A/E/C PRINCIPALS BOOTCAMP

## March 19-20, 2024

Awareness of the need to maintain a healthy backlog, sustain profitability, and keep top talent engaged is the first step towards becoming an invaluable A/E/C firm principal. Executing these and other mission-critical tasks separates real-deal principals advancing their careers and driving firm success from those who struggle to move beyond project management roles. The best principals aren't born knowing what do to. They learn from highly successful leaders eager to share their hard-won knowledge at A/E/C Principals Bootcamp.

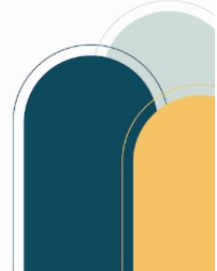
Northern Illinois University -  
Naperville Campus

REGISTRATION FEES:  
Member \$1800  
Non-Member \$3600

March 19th  
8am Registration & Breakfast  
8:30am - Program begins  
12:30pm - Buffet lunch set and ready  
5:00pm - First day concludes

March 20th  
7:30am - Breakfast  
8:00am - Program begins  
12:00pm - Buffet lunch set and ready  
3:30pm - Program concludes

Hosted by:



[REGISTER HERE](#)

*save the  
date*

# **D1 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OVERVIEW**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024**  
**8:00AM - NOON**

This seminar is an overview  
and rollout of CMMS  
material function as well  
as a review of various  
material quality approvals.

**Harry Caray's**  
**70 YORKTOWN CENTER**  
**LOMBARD, IL. 60148**

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*save the date*

HOSTED BY:



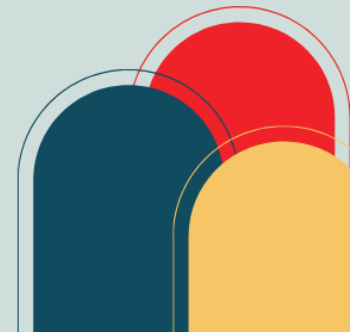
**Regional Luncheon**  
with  
**IDOT Region 3 & IDOT Region 4**

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

**11:30am - 1:30pm**



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



*save the date*

HOSTED BY:



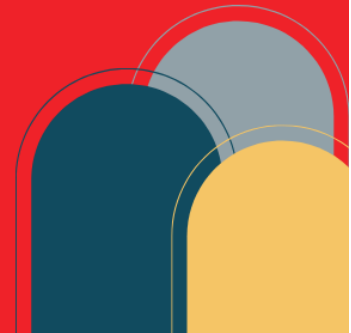
# Regional Luncheon with IDOT Region 5 Update

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

11:30am - 1:30pm



Illinois Department  
of Transportation



*save the date*

**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS**

**MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 | GENEVA, IL**



*Eagle Brook Country Club*

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*save the  
date*

# **IDOT SPECIFICATIONS, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AND PLAN NOTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024**  
**7:30AM - NOON**

**Northern Illinois University -  
Naperville Conference Center  
1120 E Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563**

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save the  
date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

2024 **SPRING MEETING**



**JUNE 4 | LOMBARD, IL**

HARRY CARAY'S - BALLROOM  
70 YORKTOWN SHOPPING CENTER  
LOMBARD, IL

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# ACEC ILLINOIS FALL *Conference* 2024

**iHotel & Conference Center**  
1900 South First Street,  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

*location*

**OCT | 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> | 2024**

*save the date*

**Over 25 Speakers**  
**20+ Sessions**  
**Networking**  
**Reception**  
**Board Meeting**

*save the date*

American Council of Engineering Companies



of Illinois



# REMINDER

ACEC IL dues invoices have been sent out. If you need a new copy or would like to pay via credit card, please contact Emily Martinez at [emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

[emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](#)

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: [emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION AND  
HIGHWAYS

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING EVENT

MARCH 5, 2024

69 W. WASHINGTON ST.,  
STE. 2200, CHICAGO, IL 60602



Two sessions  
available:

- 10 a.m. - noon
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

RSVP by Monday,  
February 26, 2024

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways is excited to hold the second annual Professional Services Open House and Networking Event on March 5, 2024. All respective Planning and Engineering firms interested in doing business with the Department are welcome to meet team members from Transportation and Highways team, discuss our 2024-2028 capital program, and discuss upcoming opportunities to be released by the Department. The event will be held with two unique sessions, one between 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and the second between 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. The event will be held at 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60602. You can RSVP at this [link](#) by 2/26/24. Space is limited to 125 per session, with a limit of two representatives per firm. The Office of the Chief of Procurement Office, Office of the Chief of Compliance, and Bureau of Asset Management – Capital Planning and Policy will also have staff present at the open house.



## Brian Fairwood Named Executive Vice President of Operations of TranSystems

Schaumburg, Ill. – Jan. 20, 2024 – Brian Fairwood has been named Executive Vice President of Operations of TranSystems Corp., a consulting firm that provides engineering and architecture solutions to the transportation marketplace. Fairwood most recently served as Central Region Senior Vice President overseeing both sales and operations for the Central Region of the company, which is made up of eight offices in five states and is the company's largest region.



"I am extremely honored to step into this position with TranSystems to oversee the successful performance of our operations through continued growth of the company," Fairwood said. "I understand that our success is a direct result of our people, and I am committed to serving them in this role."

As EVP of Operations, Fairwood will oversee productivity of business operations across the firm and its five regions.

Fairwood has more than 30 years of experience with planning reports, contract plan preparation, and coordination for municipal projects. He's held multiple roles within the company leading sales and operations for TranSystems' Chicago offices and serving as a Principal-in-Charge on numerous projects.

### About TranSystems

TranSystems plans, designs, and oversees construction to enhance the transportation networks and infrastructure that makes communities more livable today and in the future. Its professionals in more than 65 offices throughout the U.S. bring strong local connections, new thinking, and fresh approaches to solve community challenges across the country. Learn more at [www.transystems.com](http://www.transystems.com).



## ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

### Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction



Webinar Here

### Progressive Design Build



Webinar Here

# Build momentum.

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protecting all  
you've built.

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[holmesmurphy.com](http://holmesmurphy.com)  
(800) 247.7756



**CONSTRUCTION**  
**BUILD MOMENTUM**

## Introducing 2024-2026 Vice-Chair James Hoffman

[LISTEN HERE](#)



**ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews ACEC-IL board members and 2023-2024 PAC Champions Stacie Dovalovsky and Tom Hein. Tom and Stacie discuss the influence of the PAC, the issues the PAC supports nationally and locally, and the**

importance of consistent advocacy.

LISTEN HERE



Full Magazine  
Here



 **PHOTO GALLERY**

[HERE](#)



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**ACEC**  [SEE WHY](#)





Build a bright financial  
future for your team



## SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: [bethany@acecil.org](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)

Articles and updates will be included in the membership newsletter, posted on our website, and shared through our social media feeds.

Website: [www.acecil.org](http://www.acecil.org)

ACEC-Illinois | 5221 S 6th Street Road, Suite 120, Springfield, IL 62703

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