



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois at the Table for I-290/Blue Line Discussions



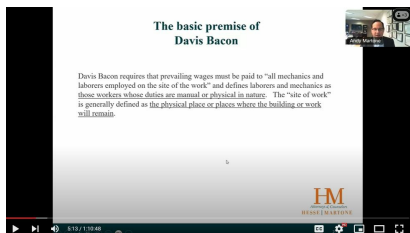
ACEC Illinois joined FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez, IDOT Secretary Omer Osman, CTA President Dorval Carter, Senate President Don Harmon and representatives from the Governor's Office, USDOT, CDOT, Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth's Office along with other organizations to view site work and discuss further the I-290 Blue Line Modernization Project.

During the meeting, ACEC IL President and CEO Kevin Artl outlined the transformative impact the project would have over the entire region in addition to the generational impact the program would have on the engineering industry in Illinois.

ACEC Illinois has submitted letters in support of IDOT efforts to secure Federal funds, including their PROTECT application for the I-290 Maywood Flood Relief Project and the IDOT/CTA Mega application for the I-290 Blue Line Multimodal Corridor Program.

Read the IDOT 290 Briefing papers:

- [I-290 Blue Line Modernization Project Summary](#)
- [I-290 Blue Line Modernization Project Deck](#)
- [Investing in the Corridor](#)



Davis Bacon Updates

Here are the latest updates and information on DOL Davis Bacon ruling.

[ACEC Webinar with Attorney Andy Martone on what the DOL Ruling means](#)

[The Impact of the New Davis Bacon Rule](#)

[The Impact of the New Davis Bacon Rule Part 2](#)

Research Institute's Q3 Sentiment Study Shows Continued High Industry Optimism

The ACEC Research Institute released this week the results of its [Q3 2023 Engineering Business Sentiment Study](#). The Report showed continued high optimism for the industry across most market sectors, namely Roads and Bridges and Water/Wastewater. It also showed much-improved optimism for the U.S. economy as a whole.

The results were unveiled in a [Future of Engineering Roundtable](#) hosted by Institute Executive Director Daphne Bryant, ACEC Director of Private Markets and Economics Thomas Grogan, and Senior Research Consultant Joe Bates, who conducted the Study. Bates pointed to the overall robust health of the A/E industry, showing a graph charting almost universal YOY increases in revenue. "We're seeing really, really healthy growth. Ever since we took a little dip during the pandemic, it's been all roses since then. We continue to hit new highs in terms of overall A/E revenue," he said. [Read More](#) | [Get the study](#)

Update on R&D Amortization and FLSA

ACEC thanks its members who have been working with us to build support for the bipartisan legislation to repeal the R&D amortization requirement (H.R. 2673/S. 866). Those efforts are bearing fruit as there are six [new cosponsors](#) of H.R. 2673, with around 20 Republicans on the wait list until additional Democrats sign on. It's often the case that congressional staff wait to have these discussions until their boss returns to Washington, so we will continue pushing and hope to see the cosponsor lists grow in September when Congress reconvenes.

We are also working with the House Ways and Means Committee to build support for moving its economic package — which includes the provision delaying the R&D amortization requirement until 2026 — to the House floor as soon as possible. Floor time will be limited in September due to the end of the federal government's fiscal year and the threat of a government shutdown, but we are pushing for the economic package to be a priority. [Read More](#)



Transportation for Illinois Coalition Announces Legislative Site Tours

TFIC, ACEC and several of our partner organizations have scheduled the below site tours. If you, someone from your organization or one of your members is interested in attending the tours and has not already done so, please email Rachel at rachel@filson-gordon.com. As more tours are scheduled we will send additional updates.

September 13th

Touring I-270 bridge reconstruction in the Metro-East area

Time: 9 am

Senator Harriss, Representative Elik, and Representative Schmidt

September 21st

Touring the Springfield Rail Improvements Project

Time: 11 am

Senator Doris Turner, Senator McClure (invited), Senator Sally Turner (invited), Representative

Coffey (invited), Representative Scherer (invited), Representative Rosenthal (invited)

September 25th

Touring construction site in Mascoutah, Illinois

Time: 9 am

Senator Belt and Representative Hoffman

Congresswoman Budzinski (invited)

September 29th

Presentation and visit at the Warbird Heritage Foundation Hangar

Time: 11:30 am

Congressman Brad Schneider (invited)

Senator Edly-Allen (invited)

Representative Faver Dias (invited)

Senator Johnson (invited)

Representative Mayfield (invited)

Representative Didech (invited)

Senator McConchie

Senator Morrison (invited)

Representative Carroll (invited)

Representative Morgan

Senator DeWitte

Rep Huynh's Chief of Staff

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please connect with Rachel at rachel@filson-gordon.com

IDOT Seeks Nominations for Transportation Planner of the Year Award

IDOT is seeking nominations for the Transportation Planner of the Year Award. This inaugural IDOT award recognizes an Illinois public-agency individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of transportation planning. Nominations are due by September 17th, 2023 and can be made online at this link: [2023 IDOT Transportation Planner of the Year](#). An award selection committee consisting of IDOT Bureau of Planning staff will review submissions. Award finalists will be notified prior to the 38th Annual Fall Planning Conference, October 2-4, 2023. The award recipient will be formally announced and presented during the closing remarks of the event.

Questions regarding this award can be directed to Janel Veile (Janel.Veile@illinois.gov) or Brandon Geber (Brandon.Geber@illinois.gov).

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

"Engineering Works" Podcast

Today we talk to Laura McGovern, Illinois State Mathcounts Chair and ACEC-IL board member about the importance of math, nurturing young talent, and how it plays a role in the success of the industry.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS...



LUNCHEON WITH SPEAKER WELCH



Wednesday, September 13 11:30am - 1:30pm

Join ACEC Illinois for a luncheon hosting Speaker of the House, Chris Welch.



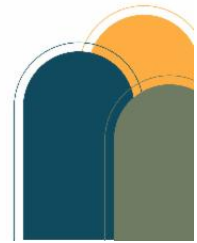
HARRY CARAY'S - BALLROOM
70 YORKTOWN SHOPPING CENTER
LOMBARD, IL

AGENDA:
11:30am Networking
Noon Luncheon
1:30pm Conclusion

REGISTRATION FEES:
Member \$85
Non-Member \$160

SPONSORSHIP:
Silver: \$250
1 Ticket
VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media

Gold: \$500
2 Tickets
2 VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media



[Register Here](#)

ACEC ILLINOIS CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE: THE PATH FORWARD 10am-11am September 15, 2023



Joe Bushong - Invariant

Joe Bushong is a lawyer and policy expert with over a decade of experience in the House and Senate, where he worked to shape every major piece of appropriations and infrastructure legislation. Joe counsels clients on the annual appropriations process and implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and the biennial Water Resources Development Act. Joe served as chief advisor for appropriations and infrastructure to Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL). He also worked as deputy chief and legislative director for Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL).



Rodney Davis - Cozen O'Connor

The Honorable Rodney Davis, a five-term former U.S. Representative for Illinois' 13th district, currently holds the position of Managing Director at Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies. In this role, Rodney provides strategic counsel to the firm's government relations clients, particularly those whose business goals are impacted by the legislative actions of Congress.



Steve Hall - ACEC

Steve joined ACEC in 2001 as head of the Council's advocacy program. Prior to that he worked on Capitol Hill for 14 years, most recently as Legislative Director and Chief of Staff for Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY). He worked for three additional House Republicans during his time in Congress, with particular focus on defense and infrastructure policy.



[Register Here](#)

WEBINAR: STATE STATUTES & A QUESTION OF ETHICS

10am-Noon
September 18, 2023

Complete your license renewal requirements with these ACEC Illinois Webinars
Beginning with the November 30, 2023 renewal for Illinois Professional Engineers and every renewal thereafter, Illinois Professional Engineers total professional development hours must include:

- A minimum of 1 hour of programs, courses, or activities in the area of statutes and this Part that regulates professional engineers and professional engineering; and
- A minimum of 1 hour of programs, courses, or activities in the area of professional conduct and/or ethics.

Registration includes:

- Certificate of completion
 - Recording of the webinar
- If unable to attend that day of please still register for the above to sent to you.

Hosted by:



10:00am - 11:00am Webinar on State Statutes

Hosted by Former Illinois State Senator Matt Murphy

This presentation fulfills the PDH requirement in the area of review of state statutes regulating professional engineers and professional engineering, including the examination approval process, application process changes, approved experience changes and standards of professional conduct. The course was developed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to meet the requirement.



Matt Murphy, Senior Director

Government Relations - Mac Strategies Group

11:00am - 12:00pm Webinar: A Question of Ethics

This interactive workshop offers a discussion of the current state of ethics using issues taken from today's headlines. Participants will review the professional code of ethics with attention to the recent changes to the code. Next attendees will be presented with sample contractual provisions that may or may not directly challenge the design professionals' professional code of ethics. After a review of the provision, the participants will determine if a conflict to their code exists. If the provision is problematic, the issue(s) will be highlighted along with the rule or standard of the code that is implicated. In a final step, the participants will discuss how to make these contractual provisions consistent with their code of professional ethics.



Andrew Patton, AE Technical Consultant
Holmes Murphy & Associates



Paula Dixon, Senior Vice President
Holmes Murphy

Presented by:



[Register Here](#)

NEPA & THE TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING PROCESS

September 19-21, 2023

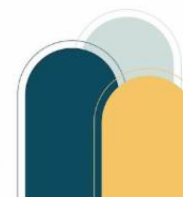
Course Number: FHWA-NHI-142005
Cost: \$1500 per ACEC Illinois Member
\$2500 per non ACEC Illinois Member

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

Hosted by:



This comprehensive, three-day, instructor-led course presents the historical background and evolution of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws. It discusses their influence on FHWA's policies and procedures for the transportation project development and decision making process. The course examines how the framework of laws, regulations, policies, and guidance integrate social, environmental, and economic factors in making transportation project decisions that are in the best overall public interest. The course emphasizes the Council on Environmental Quality and FHWA's regulations: FHWA policy and guidance for implementing NEPA, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, and related environmental requirements. It discusses the NEPA Essential Elements in detail, including purpose and need, alternatives, impacts, mitigation, public involvement, interagency coordination and documentation. The course presents the requirements and considerations used to decide whether to prepare an environmental impact statement, an environmental assessment or determination that a project is categorically excluded from either. While this is not a course in environmental document writing, it presents the key principles for preparing high quality environmental documents, including the core principles from the FHWA/AASHTO/American Council of Engineering Companies Improving the Quality of Environmental Documents and the FHWA IQED initiative. The course also includes group exercises that allow participants to apply the course concepts to a realistic project scenario involving several transportation, social and environmental considerations.



[Register Here](#)

ACEC ILLINOIS WEBINAR: EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE **10am-11am September 20, 2023**

Presented by:



BRYAN M. WELLNER
PARTNER



THOMAS J. BAHAR
ASSOCIATE

Hosted by:



Governor Pritzker recently enacted over 100 new laws. Learn how these new laws may apply to your business.

Changes to the Day and Temporary Labor Services Act requiring companies to provide equal pay and equivalent benefits to day or temporary laborers assigned to their company for more than 90 calendar days, excluding employment of a professional or clerical nature. The pay and benefits to be provided are based upon the lowest paid directly hired employee with the same level of seniority at the company performing the same work, or the lowest paid directly hired employee of the company with the closest level of seniority. These regulations will apply to any employer that contracts with a day or temporary labor service agency. Violations of these regulations could result in civil penalties of up to \$18,000. Effective August 4, 2023, [Public Act 103-0437](#)

Paid Leave for All Workers Act that requires most Illinois public and private employers to provide all employees with up to 40 hours of paid leave for any reason during a twelve-month period. Leave must accrue at the rate of one hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked. Current employees are entitled to begin using their accrued paid leave 90 days after the effective date of the law. Employees hired after the effective date are entitled to begin using their accrued time 90 days after their start date. Employers that already offer paid leave benefits meeting the minimum requirements of the Act do not have to add additional time. Each violation of the provisions of this law could result in a civil penalty of \$2,500. Effective January 1, 2024, [Public Act 102-1143](#)

Changes to the Equal Pay Act of 2003 requiring any employer with 15 or more employees to include the pay scale and benefits for a position in any specific job posting, including job postings through third parties. Employers are required to preserve the job posting for each position for not less than 5 years. An employer found to violate these regulations could be subject to increasing fines for each violation up to \$10,000. Effective January 1, 2025, [Public Act 103-0539](#)

[Register Here](#)

ACEC
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of Illinois

ACEC ILLINOIS FALL Conference

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OCT | 23 & 24th | 2023

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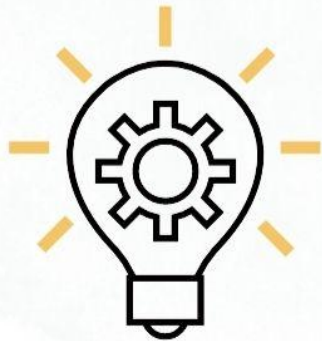


ABOUT:

ACEC Illinois Leadership Series was created to provide career development for future leaders of Illinois consulting engineering firms. It is designed to launch the industry's most promising up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within Illinois firms.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 5 Sessions across the state of Illinois
- Printed material and binders
- Meals, Beverages, and Snacks provided
- PDH Certificates will be awarded
- Awarded a Completion Certificate



2024 LEADERSHIP SERIES

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of Illinois

MISSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS FROM CLASSES YOU ALREADY TOOK?

- EMAIL [BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)
- INCLUDE: CLASS NAME, DATE OF CLASS, ATTENDEE EMAIL ADDRESS

bethany@acecil.org

Congratulations to ACEC Illinois Board Member Laura McGovern for being recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a STEM Leader in Illinois.



#CrainsNotables

2023 CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS

NOTABLE WOMEN IN STEM

Laura McGovern

Board Secretary - ACEC Illinois
Benesch

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

emily@acecil.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](https://www.acecil.org/committees)

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

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What does your business do?

- Valmont® is a leader in creating sustainable and smart infrastructure solutions to better illuminate, connect and protect people and places. From lighting and transportation to wireless connectivity and bridges, everything we do integrates innovative technology and is built to last.
- Sustainable infrastructure is the foundation of tomorrow's better world. We reimagine what is possible by innovating through technology. We create a more reliable, resilient and renewable energy network from generation to end user. We utilize the latest technologies and manufacturing techniques to make both rural and urban communities safer, enabling and connecting them for the future. We make life better for the people and communities we serve.
- Learn more at valmontstructures.com.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

- With an uncommon combination of global resources and local expertise, Valmont Structures is a recognized leader in designing and producing engineered infrastructure for the lighting, transportation and wireless communications industries worldwide. The brands and products Valmont Structures offers are often custom-engineered to meet the specific needs of an individual customer or installation site.
- We manufacture products in 21 facilities spread across six continents, and we do business in over 100 different countries.
- Valmont has been in business for 77 years with our founding in 1946 in Valley, NE.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

- Valmont Industries manufactures a wide variety of civil infrastructure products including steel and aluminum streetlighting, traffic signal and truss sign structures, smart city and EV Charging poles and U-BEAM Galvanized Steel Press Brake Formed Tub Girders for bridges. Press Brake Formed Tub Girders are an AASHTO Innovation Focus Technology and were recently featured in an AASHTO Webinar. We work with municipalities and private design firms to find the best product for their applications. Our goal in being a part of ACEC IL is to continue to communicate the benefits of this new technology to the civil engineering industry and facilitate its implementation in Illinois and beyond.

What is your business's motto?

- We improve life by creating vital infrastructure and advancing agricultural productivity with a commitment to conserving resources. Our motto is "Conserving Resources. Improving Life.®"



ACEC/PAC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

\$50 Contribution Receive ACEC PAC Socks in time for SOCK-TOBER

Contributions:
Monday, August 21 - Friday, October 20, 2023



[CONTRIBUTE HERE](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. PROMOTES THREE WITHIN THE FIRM

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), a leading civil engineering firm, is proud to announce the promotion of three of our valued employees to new positions within the company.

Mike Agate was promoted to Senior Technician in our CAD Group. Mike has been with the company for just over a year, he has already excelled in every assignment that has been given to him in this short timeframe thanks to his 15 years of expertise.

Ali Ghassemi, PhD, PE, was promoted to Senior Project Engineer I and has obtained his Professional Engineer (PE) license in the State of Wisconsin. Ali has been with the company for four years and is a member of our Environmental Group, working on a variety of water and wastewater projects.

Kamelia Afshinnia, PhD, PE, was promoted to Senior Project Engineer I and obtained her Professional Engineer (PE) license in the State of Wisconsin. Kamelia has been with the company for three years and has been a tremendous asset on numerous water and wastewater projects in our Municipal Group.

We are confident that these employees will excel in their new roles and continue to contribute to the success of our company. Please join us in congratulating them on their well-deserved promotions.

About Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), founded in 1974, is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 65 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance, and municipal consulting. Our core values guide our staff on every project from initiation through completion keeping us committed to quality, service, and value for our clients. By offering outstanding service to every client every day we are able to assist with bettering the communities in which we serve. For additional information visit our website at www.eeiweb.com.

Join us in Springfield for the Illinois Department of Transportation Fall Planning Conference: *Transportation Planning for a Livable Community!* The conference will be held October 2-4, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Springfield Convention Center. The three-day event will attract transportation professionals from around the state. Please join us for this once-a-year opportunity to learn and network with program administrators, transportation engineers, and planning professionals. The conference will include breakout session presentations and panels by your peers on the following topics: transit, rail, freight, aviation, marine and active transportation throughout Illinois with a focus on addressing underinvestment in disadvantaged communities. This conference provides an outstanding platform to meet people face-to-face in your field, exchange details and have discussions on future collaborations. For some after-hours activities, join you peers to explore Lincoln's Home Town.

Click here to register: <https://2023IDOTFallPlanningConference.eventbrite.com>

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CONSTRUCTION
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The ACEC Research Institute's 2023 Q3 Sentiment Survey



[LISTEN HERE](#)

ISSUE TWO • 2023

ENGINEERING INC.

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AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS MAGAZINE • PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Powering the Future

The urgent need
for EV infrastructure

Water Treatment Projects
Make a Splash

Tribal Surveying System
Sets New Standards

MO Profile: ACEC Kansas

C&S Companies
Champions Staff's Causes

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Full Magazine
Here



Student &
Teacher
Resources

When students dream big about their careers, engineering may not be the first thing that pops to mind. But maybe it should be. The fact is, there is unlimited opportunity and variety within the engineering field itself, allowing students to follow their passions, land that dream job and make a difference in the world. And engineers are in demand, providing endless options to build their future.

This initiative was launched to help Illinois students see themselves in the engineering field. It is part of a larger effort by the Illinois Department of Transportation to educate and hire engineers in the face of a national shortage. From introducing individual disciplines, to discussing job satisfaction, opportunities and compensation, this web page is intended as a resource for students and educators to explore all that is possible with a career in engineering.

Engineering may not be the first job students think of, but a career in the field might just become a dream come true.



[HERE](#)

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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

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

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

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