



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2020 May NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

Federal Updates:

House

The House of Representatives has approved a COVID relief package that **contains \$15 billion for State DOTs** to help offset loss of motor fuel tax revenue. The entire relief package totals over \$3 trillion has been sent to the Senate, however its future there is uncertain at this point.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues drafting of infrastructure bill, expected to follow the **\$760 billion framework** introduced in January.

Senate

Senators Graham, Wickers and Blunt have begun push for an **infrastructure bill** to aid in economic recovery.

“I want to do infrastructure,” Graham ... said to CNN. ‘I told Trump, this is the time. We got it teed up. This is the time to go big. ... It really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give a facelift to the country.’

PPP

ACEC Illinois continues to advocate for greater clarity and consistency with PPP to ensure that subsequent federal guidance and policy reflect the original intent of the CARES Act, which was to provide non-taxable loan forgiveness. In the last few weeks, ACEC Illinois has outlined its concerns with recent IRS and DOD Guidance with members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation **via letters** and conversations. ACEC Illinois appreciates the time spent by Cong. Rodney Davis, Cong. LaHood, Cong. Krishnamoorthi, Cong. Lipinski and Cong. Bost to hear our concerns. In addition, a special thanks to Cong. Lipinski for submitting a **letter** to the Director of the SBA and Secretary of Treasury seeking clarity on our concerns.

House Passes PPP Flexibility: The legislation extends the time to use the loan from eight weeks to 245 weeks and gives businesses more time to pay back loans beyond the initial

two-year term. The bill eliminates the cumbersome 75/25 restrictions that said businesses must spend 75 percent of their loans on payroll and only 25 percent on other operating expenses like rent and utilities. The formula changes to 60/40 percent. The measure now heads to the Senate.

Illinois General Assembly

Budget

Because the impact of the COVID-19 crisis is not fully known at this point, the legislature appropriated operations at similar levels to FY 20 for all agencies, including IDOT. In terms of capital spending, the legislature re-appropriated all projects funded by Rebuild Illinois bonds and about \$2.9 billion in pay-go spending for FY 21. This means IDOT will have appropriations and bond authorization in line with anticipated levels after passing the Rebuild Illinois package and before the COVID-19 crisis. However, IDOT may choose not to spend at the full appropriated level.

FY 21 Budget and Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP)

When language for the FY 2021 Budget Implementation Bill was filed, John Lowder (Transportation for Illinois Coalition) identified a transfer of \$100 million in transit operating expenses from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) to the Road Fund. While allowable under the state's Constitutional Amendment, this move would have impacted IDOT spending at a time when IDOT's spending is already in flux.

After outreach from members of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, including labor and industry (including ACEC-Illinois), an amendment was filed to move the \$100 million in transit operating expenses back to the General Revenue Fund.

Multi-Year Program

IDOT anticipates the FY 21 Multi-Year Program will come out in June and will not contemplate any changes associated with COVID-19. At this time, the possibility of federal funding and built-in flexibilities in the MYP and annual element mean IDOT may not have to cut the MYP but that is subject to revenue availability.

Local Governments

Funding for the special grant funds for local governments (High Growth Cities, Needy Townships, Consolidated Counties, and State Federal Matching Assistance) will be appropriated for FY 20 at FY 19 levels. Originally, the FY 20 IDOT budget anticipated cuts to many aspects of the budget, including the special grant funds for local governments. When the Rebuild Illinois bill passed after the IDOT budget last spring, local governments and IDOT began working with the legislature to restore the funding for FY 20. The impact will vary by local government and the breakdown of what percentage of their budget comes from MFT vs the special funds. At a minimum, local governments should get at least a small increase in FY 20 over FY 19 as a result of the Rebuild Illinois program and this change.

For FY 21, funding for the special grant funds will be increased above FY 19 levels to ensure that every unit of local government receives a 60-70% increase over pre-Rebuild Illinois funding levels, regardless of whether they depend on MFT distribution or the special funds for the majority of their budget. This was an initiative of local governments to ensure parity. Those funds, like the rest of IDOT's budget, are subject to revenue availability.

Government Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requirements were not waived for local governments receiving Rebuild Illinois funding. The legislature may take up that action in the fall veto session.

Workers Compensation

For workers diagnosed with COVID-19, legislation passed that creates a rebuttable presumption that essential workers, as long as they encounter members of the public or work in an employment location with more than 15 employees, and first responders were infected with the virus at their place of work. Employers may rebut the presumption by demonstrating that

- The employee worked from home for at least 14 days prior to the employee's period of incapacity due to COVID-19;
- The employer was engaging in and applying to the fullest extent possible or enforcing to the best of its ability industry-specific workplace sanitation, social distancing, and

health and safety practices based on updated guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control or Illinois Department of Public Health or was using a combination of administrative controls, engineering controls, or personnel protective equipment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 to all employees for at least 14 consecutive days prior to the employee's injury, occupational disease, or period of incapacity resulted from exposure to the COVID-19 virus. For purposes of this subsection "updated" means the guidance in effect at least 14 days prior to the COVID-19 diagnosis; or

- The employee was exposed to the COVID-19 virus by an alternate source.

Due to input from employer organizations, including ACEC-Illinois, numerous changes were made from the originally proposed language.

Unemployment Insurance

An agreement on Unemployment Insurance was also passed this session to bring Illinois into compliance with the federal CARES Act and to accomplish a few other legislative priorities. To implement the federal CARES Act, the following changes were made:

- Waiver of the benefit charges to individual employers due to benefits paid due to COVID-19 (for all employers except nonprofit and local government employers—they cover 50%);
- Waiver of one week waiting period for people receiving benefits and employers not charged for benefits due to the waiver of the one week waiting period; and
- Benefits extended by 13 weeks

Other changes:

- Expansion of benefits to non-instruction educational employees;
- Rulemaking to comply with federal work search requirements; and
- Benefit reductions and tax increases beginning January 1, 2022 designed to encourage both sides to re-negotiate

Toll Bridge Act

SB 531, which allows a county board to set a toll rate schedule for no more than 99 years, passed the General Assembly. This is enabling language for the privately built bridge to the proposed Northpoint intermodal center in Will County. The Toll Bridge Act already allowed the county board to set a toll rate schedule, so this is more of a clarification of the existing law.



To best assist your firm and employees, we have created an [ACEC Illinois "Returning To The Workplace"](#) document that encapsulates this guidance and best practices.

In addition, on our [website](#) you can find additional resources, including [information posters and communication tools](#) along with [CDC](#) and [State of Illinois guidance](#). These resources will be continually updated to reflect new guidance and best practices.

Safety Procedures at CDB Jobsites



We recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, and appreciate the essential construction services our contractors and design firms are providing to the State at this time. During the COVID-19 crisis, CDB has been mindful that projects in active construction should continue without jeopardizing the health and safety of our staff, our vendors, and the public at large. In furtherance of our ongoing safety measures, attached are a COVID-19 Jobsite Safety Procedures Fact Sheet and a sample COVID-19 Jobsite Safety Symptom Monitoring Form. The safety procedures outlined in the Fact Sheet are minimum standards that went into effect May 20 at all CDB jobsites in active construction. The Symptom Monitoring Form is an example that may be used by firms participating in a CDB project in active construction.

If you have questions on the application of these safety procedures to an active construction project, please contact your CDB Project Manager.

[CDB COVID-19 Job Site Safety Procedures Fact Sheet 5-20-20.pdf](#)

[CDB COVID-19 Job Site Safety Symptom Monitoring Form 5-20-20 v2.pdf](#)

MEMBER UPDATES



Klingner engineer earns MBA from Quincy University

QUINCY, IL, MAY 11, 2020 — William E. Klingner, PE, CFM, of Klingner & Associates, P.C. has earned a Master of Business Administration from Quincy University (QU). As part of his degree, Klingner also successfully completed engineering management-focused courses through Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T).

“I hope to use the knowledge gained from my degree to build upon the success of our past leadership,” said Klingner, who is a third-generation engineer for the Quincy-based firm. “Sound business and financial practices are the foundation upon which we can provide high quality services to our clients and our community.”

Klingner has 10 years of experience as a water resources engineer, assisting clients throughout Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa with hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, drainage and site design, and permitting. Outside of the firm, he is the secretary for the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (Western Illinois Chapter), an American Council of Engineering Companies (IL) – Rock Island United States Corps of Engineers liaison, and

treasurer for the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. Klingner holds a Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with a specialization in Hydraulics from the University of Iowa, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri, Columbia.



Klingner engineers earn Illinois Professional Engineer registration

QUINCY, IL, MAY 18, 2020 — Three Klingner engineers have been approved for their Illinois Professional Engineer registration by the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation: Steve Damm, PE; Toshia Drebes, PE; and Geoffrey Thompson, PE.

- Damm is a Mechanical / Electrical engineer who also holds licensure in Missouri. He joined the firm in 2019, bringing 17 years of experience specializing in designs for commercial and healthcare clients.
- Drebes is a Transportation engineer who also holds licensure in Missouri. She joined Klingner in January of this year with 15 years of experience as a former Transportation Project Designer for MoDOT.
- Thompson is a Water / Wastewater engineer previously holding licensure in Kansas and Oklahoma. In addition to his Illinois Professional Engineer registration, Thompson has also obtained licensure in Iowa and Missouri. He joined Klingner in April of this year, bringing 8 years of experience to the firm.

All three provide engineering support for Klingner's clients throughout Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

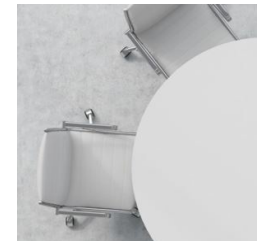
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ADVOCACY



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JUNE 1 – IL Tollway Webinar: Utilities, AT&T, Nicor, ComEd

REGISTER: <http://www.cvent.com/d/1nqgfj/4W>

ABOUT: This workshop will overview the utility process.

JUNE 2 – IL Tollway Webinar: Diversity, Contract Compliance



REGISTER: <http://www.cvent.com/d/1nqgfj/4W>



JUNE 4 – IL Tollway Webinar: Final Session

REGISTER: <http://www.cvent.com/d/1nqgfj/4W>

Speaker: Jose Alvarez, Executive Director and Paul Kovacs, Chief Engineering Officer



JUNE 11 – **ACEC Illinois Spring Board Meeting**

10AM – 12:30PM

REGISTRATION:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4865471300878079745>

ABOUT: Please join us for the ACEC Illinois Spring Board Meeting for an update from the Board of Directors.



JUNE 25 – Webinar – Marketing Yourself: Building Your Brand

1:00PM

REGISTRATION:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7050578036829112321>

ABOUT: The practice of engineering involves people doing business with people, which makes your personal interactions, brand, and goals important to both your career path and the value you offer to clients.

In this introductory webinar, we'll discuss the components of marketing and how they relate to understanding yourself and others, deciding on your path, and creating your future

ACEC Illinois Launches #ACECILWORKING:

ACEC IL members are working harder than ever now, just in some very different environments. Design work is being done at the kitchen table, plans are being reviewed on the deck and zooms are regularly interrupted by requests for juice and goldfish crackers by younger “co-workers”.

We want to highlight how ACEC Illinois members are adapting to and overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 and still getting this essential work done. So, send us your pictures and your stories at info@acecil.org so we can highlight your work on our social networks.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

Please submit 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

