

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Illinois

2022 September  
NEWSLETTER:  
**THE CONNECTOR**



## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL



### TFIC Releases MYP Summary

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition has released its analysis of IDOT's FY23 MYP.

Here is some of their topline summary and analysis:

#### STATE PROGRAM

*The state portion of the 2023 MYP is \$18.82 billion and includes the following:*

***Roadway Maintenance** includes reconstruction, resurfacing, widening and pavement preservation projects. Total dollar amount for MYP = **\$6.36 billion**.*

***Bridges** consists of bridge replacement and rehabilitation, minor surface repairs and preservation projects. Bridge information will be discussed in terms of square feet of deck (prior just by number of projects). Total dollar amount for MYP = **\$6.4 billion**.*

***Safety/System Modernization** consists of projects such as interchange reconstruction, interstate safety projects and traffic and safety improvements. Total dollar amount for MYP = **\$1.55 billion**.*

***System Expansion** includes major projects such as new bridges on new alignment, bridge*

replacements that increase capacity, additional lanes, new interchanges and strategic regional arteries. Total dollar amount for MYP = **\$2.03 billion**.

**System Support** consists of rest area and weigh station maintenance, miscellaneous districtwide projects contract maintenance, statewide engineering or other statewide items, such as pavement markings, guardrail delineation, sign truss work and median barriers. Total dollar amount for MYP = **\$2.48 billion**.

To view their complete report and deep dive into the data, [click here](#).

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**Illinois submitted its Electric Vehicle Deployment Plan to the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation on August 1, 2022.**

The plan is a draft, pending review and approval from the Federal Highway Administration.

As part of continued stakeholder engagement, IDOT has prepared a summary of initial comments received by stakeholders and how the feedback is influencing NEVI plan implementation. IDOT plans to continue providing periodic summaries of stakeholder and public feedback as implementation continues.

To view the Illinois Electric Vehicle Deployment Plan, [click here](#). To view summary of initial comments from stakeholders, [click here](#).

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## IDOT Office of Business and Workforce Diversity Seeks Your Input

IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity has prepared very short survey to help guide their efforts this year and enhance its Supportive Services offerings.

The links for the survey are below, both in English and

Spanish.

Please take a minute to complete this survey.

*IDOT DBE Survey*

- [English version](#)
  - [Spanish version](#)
- 



## IDOT Offers Seminar on Advantage Illinois Loan Program

Please join the Illinois Department of Transportation's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity and DCEO on September 15th to learn about how to get DBE's access to capital to successful bid on IDOT's work. We will discuss how this participating loan program, has a set-aside, specifically for

minority owned DBE firms. Governor Pritzker recently announced the 34.6 Billion Dollar Multi-Year Plan which encompasses \$1.6 billion dollars in infrastructure improvements and investments over the next five years.

To register for this virtual event, [click here](#).

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Thanks,  
Kevin Artl

# ACEC Illinois Honors Governor Pritzker with Champion of Infrastructure Award



**FORWARD**

**PLANNING FOR RECOVERY**

37TH ANNUAL FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE  
ECONOMY • LIVABILITY • MOBILITY • RESILIENCY • STEWARDSHIP

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Register Here](#)

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT





**BLA, Inc.**

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

BLA was established in 1978 focused primarily on Transportation Design and Construction Management. Our primary office is located in Itasca, IL and we provide services in several surrounding states including Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

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

Too many to single out without doing a disservice to our clients who have placed their faith in us. But we are currently doing a lot of bridge design work along with several preliminary engineering projects on lengthy corridors which are both exciting and challenging. We have also been fortunate enough to work on several projects included in the Tollway's Move Illinois plan, both as a prime consultant and as a subconsultant to partner firms. Many times, the biggest projects aren't the most rewarding as it can often be the unique projects involving complex design from multiple disciplines that really challenge us as engineers. We have some fantastic projects from our partners at IDOT and the Tollway as well as all six collar County DOTs.

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

Historically, several. The projects that are the most rewarding involve hesitation or even opposition at the outset of the project; once those projects are complete, receiving feedback about how the improvements we were a part of made a positive impact on the community or the greater transportation network in the region. Being able to work on Kane County DOT's Longmeadow Parkway project at the same time as McHenry County DOT's Randall Road Corridor—both the largest undertakings ever by each agency—and seeing those projects completed instilled a great deal of pride in our staff that delivered these projects. A lot of creative, outside-the-box thinking went into both of those projects to ensure the municipalities needs were addressed while providing a major transportation benefit to the region.

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

It is a robust organization with multiple events throughout the year providing opportunities to interact with leaders in government as well as training and networking opportunities with our peer organizations in the industry. Serving on committees provides insight into what is going on currently in our industry as well as a look-ahead into the future.

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

Being a part of an organization that advocates for our industry to lawmakers and decision makers within government is a tremendous benefit. Without ACEC, there is no Safe Roads Amendment or a robust Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. Leaders from ACEC-IL along with support from our member firms like us have truly made a difference in our state's infrastructure.

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**AFFILIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**AXION**  
RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES  
A BenefitsUSA Company

### **What does your business do?**

Axion Risk Management Strategies is an employee benefits consultancy and an insurance brokerage firm. Axion focuses on building a multi-year strategic plan by utilizing analytics, risk management, and actuarial projections. As a result, Axion is able to minimize costs for both the employer and their employees.

### **What is a benefit of doing business with you?**

Axion creates a competitive edge by creating "best in industry" employee benefits. The Axion Team's responsive and highly adaptive consulting and service puts Axion in the best position to address each of its clients' unique goals and challenges. Axion helps its clients attract and retain employees by leveraging economies and by applying innovative solutions to achieve the best results. Axion's approach elevates the employee benefits and quality of life for each employee through well-being while delivering the best financial results for corporate budgets.

### **Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?**

Axion joined ACEC IL to focus on the highly competitive engineering industry and bring value and education to both employers and employees. Axion recently conducted the 2022 ACEC IL Employee Benefits Survey to help educate peer firms and bridge the gap between member benefit offerings and budgetary restrictions.

### **What is your business's motto?**

"A Promise that Starts with People."

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

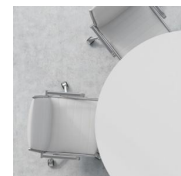
SAVE THE DATE



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BUSINESS



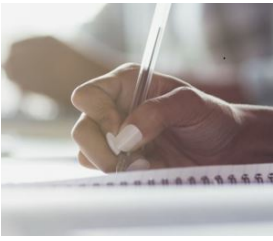
## **ACEC Illinois Annual Fall Reception for Senator Ram Villivalam**

September 22, 2022 | 6pm - 8pm

Location:  
Harry Caray's Restaurant  
70 Yorktown Center  
Lombard, IL 60148

Register [Here](#)

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**Virtual: Training and Information to Comply with new  
City of Chicago Sexual Harassment Training Ordinance**  
September 27, 2022 | 10am - 11am

Register [Here](#)

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**2022 IDOT Bridge Seminar (Naperville)**  
September 28, 2022 at 8am to September 29, 2022 at 4:30pm

Location:  
Embassy Suites  
1823 Abriter Court  
Naperville, IL 60563

Register [Here](#)

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**ACEC Illinois Fall Conference**  
October 5-6, 2022

Location: Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette  
501 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602

Register [Here](#)

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## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](https://www.acecil.org/committee-meeting-schedule)

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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**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.  
ANNOUNCES ONE NEWLY LICENSED  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce that **Jake Seger** from Sugar Grove, Illinois has passed the Professional Engineer (PE) exam and has earned the title of Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

**Seger** is a graduate from Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois with a BS in Civil Engineering. He has extensive IDOT training and certifications and is also a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association of State Floodplain Managers.

With his PE licensure, **Seger** joins 22 other licensed professional engineers at EEI. In addition, he has also been promoted to a *Senior Project Engineer I* within the organization.

The PE license is the engineering profession's highest standard of competence, regulated by the State in the interest of supporting integrity within the profession and public safety. It is a symbol of achievement and assurance of quality.

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**BENTON & ASSOCIATES, INC. IS  
PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE  
APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PRINCIPAL**

Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce **Stefanie J. Ballinger, PE**, has achieved the position of becoming a *Principal* of the firm in recognition of her years of service, contributions to our client's projects and ownership commitment to the future of Benton & Associates, Inc. Ms. Ballinger serves as a lead engineer in our general civil and transportation group.

Stefanie is a licensed professional engineer, and provides civil engineering planning, design and construction phase services in a wide range of infrastructure improvements



including all facets of IDOT highway/interstate projects, safe-routes-to-schools projects, community stormwater drainage, transit facilities, sewer collection systems and wastewater treatment plant facilities. Stefanie has been with B&A since 2014, first starting in our Macomb office and later relocating to our Jacksonville office.

Benton & Associates, Inc. of Jacksonville, Illinois, is a Consulting Engineering Firm providing civil and electrical engineering and land surveying services for both public and private clients in Illinois and Missouri. Major service areas include: Environmental, Transportation, Land Development, and Structural Engineering.

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Full Article Here

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## **BENTON & ASSOCIATES, INC. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Benton & Associates, Inc.**, a consulting engineering/land surveying firm headquartered in Jacksonville, Illinois, announced election of its 2022-2023 officers and Board of Directors: **Reginald H. Benton** will serve as the Chairman of the Board, **Jamie L. Headen** was elected as the President. Other officers and directors include **Douglas J. Erickson**, Vice-President and Director; **William J. Sleeman**, Secretary/Treasurer and Director, **Matthew B. Hardy**, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, **Kenneth E. Sturgeon**, Director, **Benjamin M. Spreen**, Director, and **D. Gregory Hillis**, Director. Benton & Associates, Inc. provides engineering and surveying services for both public and private clients in Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky. [www.bentonassociates.com](http://www.bentonassociates.com)

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## JOSE RIVERA, PE, JOINS SAM SCHWARTZ AS VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION



Sam Schwartz is pleased to announce that Jose M. Rivera, Jr., P.E., has joined the firm as Vice President, Transportation.

As Chief Traffic Engineer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and over the course of his 35-year career at the agency, he played a pivotal role on projects including the construction of new terminals and roadways at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport; the redevelopment of LaGuardia Airport; the implementation of the E-ZPass program at all tunnels, bridges, and airports; and ITS deployments at the George Washington Bridge, Holland Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, Staten Island bridges, and JFK Airport.

"Sam Schwartz is proud to be a key partner to the Port Authority and other major infrastructure owners throughout the region and nationwide," said Michael A. Shamma, PE, President and CEO of Sam Schwartz. "Jose's wide-ranging experience in traffic planning, design, and safety is an exciting addition to our efforts to build sustainable, connected communities."

"During my time working with them at the Port, Sam Schwartz always stood out for the passion they bring to their work, their focus on enhancing mobility for all users, their commitment to their clients, and the creativity with which they tackle the most complex challenges," added Jose Rivera. "Now, as a member of their team, I look forward to helping them deliver that same exceptional level of customer service."

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**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.  
WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS**



David Todd



Quentin Tiscareno

**Dave Todd** has joined our Municipal / Construction Group as a Senior Project Technician II. His previous public works utilities sector experience is a benefit to the firm and the underground projects he will be assigned to.

**Quentin Tiscareno** has joined our Transportation Group as a Project Engineer. He is a recent graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. His previous intern experience with the City of Aurora will provide as a good base for the various projects he will be working on for the firm.

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## ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE PROMOTIONS



Christopher Buckley



Christopher Walton



Natasha Woodlock

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce three recent promotions within the firm in recognition of their ability to take on additional responsibilities, demonstrated leadership and positive impact on the organization.

**Christopher F. Buckley, PE, BCEE**, promoted to Senior Project Manager / Environmental Technical Director. Chris has been with the firm for two years. In this short amount of time, he has demonstrated his strong project management and leadership skills on sizable projects for the City of Sandwich and the City of Joliet.

**Christopher R. Walton, PE**, promoted to Project Manager. Chris has been with the firm for nine years. He continues to excel at all levels on the many projects he is working on. He was also recently named the ISAWWA Young Professional of the Year Award.

**Natasha P. Woodlock, PE**, promoted to Senior Project Engineer I after obtaining her Professional Engineer (PE) license in the State of Illinois. Natasha has been with the firm for two years and has been a tremendous asset on numerous projects. We look forward to her continued growth with the firm.

According to Stephen T. Dennison, PE, Senior Project Manager / Principal for the Environmental Group, "We are excited to reward Chris, Chris, and Natasha with these deserved promotions and look forward to their continued contributions to the growth of the Environmental Group and the firm."

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## **The August Economic Update from ACEC**



[LISTEN HERE](#)

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## **Update on the Housing Market with NAHB's Danushka Nanayakarra- Skillington**





# ENGINEERING INFLUENCE

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

[LISTEN HERE](#)

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SUMMER 2022

# ENGINEERING INC.

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

Severud Associates'  
Moynihan Train Hall  
takes top prize at  
the 2022 Engineering  
Excellence Awards

## ALL ABOARD

MOYNIHAN  
TRAIN HALL

Meet the New ACEC  
Executive Committee

What Makes an  
Effective Board  
of Directors?

CSR: Ruby + Associates

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Full Magazine Here

Check out more events, like the **Reception Honoring the  
Champion of Infrastructure, Governor Pritzker:**



# ACEC

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of Illinois



## Photo Gallery

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# Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

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Contact Lydia Zabrycki at (559) 284.0370 [lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com](mailto:lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com) [www.acecrt.com](http://www.acecrt.com)



## FURRY FRIENDS

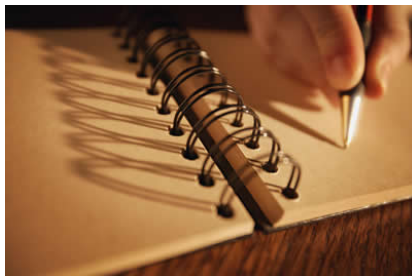
#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

**#ACECILPETS**



## 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)

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