



**KEVIN ARTL**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

**ACEC Illinois Launches Legislative Agenda**  
*Industry Leaders meets with Legislative Leaders to Protect Road Fund, Advance Workforce Incentives*



In the Capitol Press Room, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC Illinois) unveiled its 2024 legislative agenda. ACEC is calling for a renewed commitment to full funding for infrastructural development through Rebuild Illinois and modernizing research and education tax credits and other incentives that will help the state recruit and retain engineers who build the infrastructure that will keep the state at pace with a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

**Why it matters:** The potential diversion of road funds could have an escalating impact of over \$1 billion in road fund diversions over the next few years according to the Transportation for Illinois Coalition. [Click here for the entire ACEC IL 2024 Legislative Agenda.](#)

**Advocating at the Capitol:** ACEC Board Members, including Linda Moen, Lou Gallucci, Steve Donahue, PJ Fitzpatrick, Tanya Adams and Laura McGovern introduced the measures to the assembled media and provided context for how legislators can help advance and grow Illinois' engineering sector. Following the press conference, ACEC met with Secretary Osman, Senator Ram Villivalam, Senator Don DeWitte, House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, Assistant Majority Leader Jay Hoffman and Deputy Republican Leader Ryan Spain among others to advance the agenda and provide updates on ReBuild Illinois.

*For a deeper dive, check out the statewide news coverage:*

[WAND TV:](#) *"Illinois has historic funding for construction projects under the Rebuild Illinois plan, but industry leaders say thousands of engineering jobs will stay unfilled if lawmakers don't help with workforce development"*

[Collinsville Daily News:](#) *"Engineers against Pritzker's plan to shift downstate road money to Chicago"*

[WJBC Online:](#) *"Illinois engineers outline priorities and concerns in Springfield"*



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## Congress Avoids Shutdown-Passes Key Spending Bills



The Senate gave final approval on Friday to a package of six spending bills that provide funding for federal transportation, water, military construction and other programs that impact our industry. The House has already passed the bill, which now goes to the President for his signature. While some programs face reductions, overall the package represents a good deal that will prevent the shutdown of key federal agencies programs and provide stability in federal funding through to the end of the fiscal



year. [Click here](#) for a summary of the consolidated package from Appropriations Committee Republicans and [here](#) for a summary from House Democrats.

### **Key elements of the deal – *Transportation***

The bill unlocks the authorized funding levels for highway and transit formula programs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It also makes no changes to the advanced appropriations for transportation programs included in the IIJA. The final agreement does reduce some supplemental funding for various DOT discretionary grant programs compared to previous years. The budget caps agreed to last year, coupled with inflated housing voucher costs and lower-than-expected offsetting receipts for HUD mortgages, forced the committee to reduce funding for certain capital accounts. In most cases, this means the plus-ups enacted in previous years were not as generous as this year. None of the reductions are as steep as what had originally been proposed in the House. Another contributing factor was the number and size of local community projects funded through congressionally directed spending (i.e. earmarks). That list of projects is [here](#).

**On the highway side**, the IIJA authorized \$60.835 billion in Highway Trust Fund formula funding for 2024, all of which is made available by the bill. The IIJA also provided an additional \$9.454 billion in advanced appropriations from the General Fund for 2024, and the bill does not change that, either. In addition to those totals, the bill provides \$1.88 billion in congressionally directed community project funding, \$100 million for Appalachian highway development, \$50 million for bridge reconstruction and repair in states with low population density, and \$10 million for the regional infrastructure accelerator program.

**Transit** is provided the \$14.0 billion in funding authorized under IIJA for a variety of formula programs from the Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund, as well as an additional \$4.25 billion in advanced appropriations from the General Fund for 2024. In addition to those totals, the appropriations package provides \$2.205 billion for transit Capital Investment Grants, including \$2.131 billion for new starts. The bill also includes \$206.8 million for designated local transit projects.

Funding for the **Federal Railroad Administration** totals \$3.0 billion, a \$434 million (13 percent) reduction from 2023. Of that amount, Amtrak receives \$2.43 billion, including \$1.14 billion for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.286 billion for the national network. Rail infrastructure grants receive \$175 million, down from \$630 million in 2023. However, these programs received \$8.8 billion in IIJA for 2024.

**For airports**, the bill provides \$3.19 billion for FAA facilities and equipment, an increase of \$246 million (8%) above FY 2023. It also supplements the authorized \$3.35 billion in Airport Improvement Program funding with \$532 million from the General Fund. That is a \$26 million decrease from last year. Of that amount, \$482 million is congressionally directed to specific airport projects. The IIJA also provided \$3 billion in advanced appropriations for airport infrastructure grants in 2024.

The final agreement funds the RAISE multimodal discretionary grants program at \$345 million, \$455 million below the 2023 level. IIJA provided advanced appropriations of \$1.5 billion for 2024, which was not changed.

### ***Water***

For the **Army Corps of Engineers** the bill provides \$8.7 billion, an increase of \$1.3 billion above the President's request, including \$1.8 billion for construction, \$5.6 billion for operation and maintenance (\$422 million above the fiscal year 2023 level), and up to \$440 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for dam and levee infrastructure.

For **environmental clean-ups**, the Superfund program takes a hit under EPA's budget, funded at \$538 million, although the reduction compared to FY'23 is largely offset by the restoration of dedicated excise tax revenue to support clean-ups. DOE's Environmental Management program – which is used for nuclear cleanup work at 15 sites across the country -- is funded at \$8.5 billion, an increase of \$219 million above FY'23.

For **water and wastewater**, the bill provides \$2.8 billion for the water and wastewater State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, which is level funding from FY'23.

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# Engineering Excellence Awards Recap

## Nearly 600 Attend the Industry's Premiere Event

Even with a band, dignitaries and a 360 degree photo booth, the main attraction of this year's EEA remained the amazing projects developed by Illinois' engineers. Seven Illinois projects will be receiving awards at the National EEA Awards Gala in May.

For a recap and list of winners, check out the press coverage of the 2024 ACEC IL EEA Awards

[Illinois Business Journal](#): "ACEC Illinois honors top achievements at annual Engineering Excellence Awards"

[Sun Times News](#): "American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois honors top engineering achievements at Annual Engineering Excellence Awards"



## State Legislation ACEC is tracking

[HB5301](#), [SB 3631](#)--Illinois Coordinate System. Updates for engineering, surveying, and GIS per federal law. These are IDOT initiatives.

[HB4809](#), [SB3633](#)--Increases the threshold for Office of Attorney General review of land acquisition deals from \$10k to \$25k. These are IDOT initiatives.

[SB3435](#): Illinois engineers and construction workers have faced incidents of violent crime on public works projects. To help deter potential future crimes, this legislation enhances penalties for criminals who target construction workers, engineers and other who are working on public works projects. The legislation sponsored by Senator Joyce and is an initiative of IRTBA and ACEC IL.

To View the 2024 ACEC IL Legislative Agenda, [click here](#).

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

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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](#)

A graphic with a repeating geometric pattern of triangles in shades of blue, yellow, and grey. In the center is a dark teal square containing the following text:

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](mailto:Emily@acecil.org)
2. Subject line: Your Name - Board of Directors Application
3. Submission Deadline: March 15, 2024

[APPLICATION HERE](#)

A graphic with a yellow background. On the left, the words "UPCOMING EVENTS..." are written in large, bold, red, sans-serif font. On the right, there is a dark teal arched shape containing the ACEC logo and the text:

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



**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](#)

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# D1 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OVERVIEW

**Thursday, April 4, 2024**  
**8:30am - Noon**

This seminar is an overview and rollout of CMMS material function as well as a review of various material quality approvals. It is geared toward those working on IDOT construction projects serving in role Resident Engineer, Materials Coordinator, and Documentation Technician.

- 8:00-8:30 Registration
- 8:30-9:30 CMMS Training: Jon Schumacher, Bureau Chief of Construction-D1
- 9:30-10:00 Manual for Materials: Mike Boyle
- 10:00-10:30 Buy America Review: Steve Jones, Bureau Chief of Materials-D1
- 10:30-11:00 Quality Management Plan: Kevin Finn: Mixtures Control Engineer-IDOT
- 11:00-11:45 Panel Discussion with IDOT Area Supervisors & Facilitator: Dan Tiltges

Hosted by:



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



[REGISTER HERE](#)

## DISTRICT 1 DRAINAGE SEMINAR

APRIL 16-17, 2024

HOSTED BY:



**April 16-17, 2024**  
**Day 1: 8:00am - 4:45pm**  
**Day 2: 7:30am - 12:30pm**

**NIU Conference Center**  
**1120 E. Diehl Road**  
**Naperville, IL 60563**

### Who should attend?

Consultants involved in drainage design of highway improvements, drainage engineers, hydraulic engineers, project managers. Phase II Designers involved in reevaluation of Phase I Studies. Project managers who may need to scope highway improvements containing robust drainage infrastructure. Engineers involved in processing Floodway permits, Highway Access Permits, Stormwater BMPs, Design of Scour, and Hydraulics reports for Bridges, Culverts and Pump Stations.

### SESSIONS:

- Phase I & II Interrelationships
- LDS & LDTM
- Permit Overview
- Stormwater BMPs
- Highway Access Permits
- Floodway Permits Illinois IDNR
- Waterway Hydraulic Reports
- Scour
- SRH-2D Update
- Pump Station Hydraulic Reports

[REGISTER HERE](#)

*save the date*

HOSTED BY:



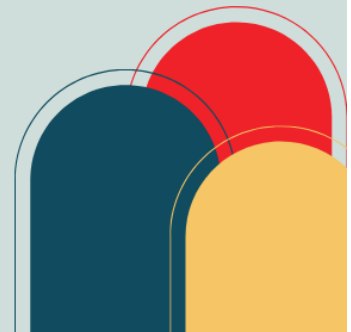
**Regional Luncheon**  
with  
**IDOT Region 3 & IDOT Region 4**

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**

*Spring Golf Outing*



*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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**SAVE THE DATE**

# PATHWAYS TO COOK COUNTY SUMMIT



## Prepare for...

\*\*A dynamic and collaborative event fostering inclusivity, transparency, and civic engagement featuring vendors, workshops and interactive sessions that provide opportunities for participants to network, grow ideas, learn best practices, and explore strategies for greater impact and professional development.

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**UIC-Dorin Forum  
725 W Roosevelt Rd,  
Chicago, IL 60608**



## Workshop topics include:

Grants   Jobs   Procurement   M/WBE Certification   Economic Development



Scan the QR code to register

Please join Cook County for the Pathways to Cook County Summit 2024 on April 9th! Registration for the event is available at the following [link](#). This is a dynamic and collaborative event fostering inclusivity, transparency, and civic engagement featuring vendors, workshops and interactive sessions that provide opportunities for participants to network, grow ideas, learn best practices, and explore strategies for greater impact and professional development. More information can also be found the following [link](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## Klingner designer becomes Professional Engineer

**DAVENPORT, IOWA, FEBRUARY 19, 2024** — Nicholas Kjera, a transportation designer for Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner), has become a registered Professional Engineer (PE) with the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation. His experience includes design and construction inspection for a wide variety of projects, including roads, pedestrian pathways, bridges, retaining walls, and buildings.

Kjera joined the Klingner team in 2022 and is based in the firm's Davenport office. He holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from North Dakota State University.

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## **Klingner designer becomes Professional Engineer**

**CARBONDALE, ILL., FEBRUARY 26, 2024** — Karley Hanne, a water / wastewater designer for Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner), has earned her Professional Engineer (PE) license from the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation. Her experience includes over seven years of site design, drainage calculations and analysis, construction inspection, storm and sanitary analysis, IDOT project implementation, and project management.

Hanne joined the Klingner team in 2022 and is based in the firm's Carbondale office. She holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

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**Wine Basket**

2022 Project amp 'Pining for Diamonds' Merlot  
2022 Project amp 'Tapestry No. 4' Red Wine  
2022 Project amp 'Graffiti Town USA' Cabernet Sauvignon  
2021 Dove Hunt Dog Rosé, California  
2022 Conte de la Terre Pinot Gris, California

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**StubHub**

\$ **150**

StubHub

**Elizabeth Collins**  
of Collins Engineers, Inc.

**Ahmed Issa**  
HBM Engineering Group, LLC



**Brian Welker**  
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

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**PAC  
Raffle**

**ACEC/PAC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**WINNERS:**  
*Congratulations!*

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**amazon**

**Ryan Macander**  
TranSystems Corporation

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**amazon**

**Mike Zorn**  
Lochner

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**amazon**

**Darren Franzen**  
BLA, Inc.

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# BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs  
eternal

DONATE  
BLOOD

**Wednesday  
April**

**3**

**8:00am - 2:00pm**

**Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.**

**PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED.**

**Engineering Enterprises Inc. Blood Drive  
50 donations for 50 years !!**

52 Wheeler Rd. Sugar Grove, IL.  
Drive will be held in the Training Room Area.

To schedule, contact [asmith@eeiweb.com](mailto:asmith@eeiweb.com) or go to [www.versiti.org/IL](http://www.versiti.org/IL), load the Versiti Donor app, call (800) 7TO-GIVE, or scan the QR code below.

Appointments appreciated; walk-ins welcome!

**EVERY DONOR WILL SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES!**

**PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED.**

Call (630) 723-2589 with eligibility questions.



## **ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY: JOIN OUR 50 PINTS FOR 50 YEARS BLOOD DRIVE**

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is proud to announce our upcoming blood drive event, "50 Pints for 50 Years," in celebration of our 50th anniversary. This special event aims to collect 50 pints of life-saving blood to support our community and honor this significant milestone.

The blood drive will take place on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 AM – 2 PM at 52 Wheeler Road, Sugar Grove, Illinois. We invite all eligible donors to participate and help us reach our goal of 50 pints. Every donation can make a difference and save lives in need.

"We are thrilled to mark our 50th year by giving back to the community through this blood drive," said Brad Sanderson, PE, Chief Operating Officer/President at EEI. Join us in making a meaningful impact and celebrating this milestone by donating blood to those in need." Donating blood is a simple yet powerful way to contribute to the well-being of others. Each pint collected can potentially save up to three lives, making a significant difference in the lives of patients facing medical emergencies.

To participate in the "50 Pints for 50 Years" blood drive, please schedule an appointment online at [https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/5609119](https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5609119) or by contacting Angie Smith, [asmith@eeiweb.com](mailto:asmith@eeiweb.com). Walk-ins are also welcome on the day of the event. Help us make this anniversary celebration truly special by giving the gift of life through your generous donation.

For more information about the blood drive or to learn about eligibility requirements, please visit <https://versiti.org/ways-to-give/about-blood-donation/blood-donation-faqs>.

Join us in honoring 50 years of giving back by participating in the "50 Pints for 50 Years" blood drive. Your support can make a lasting impact on our community and beyond.



## ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

### Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction



Webinar Here

### Progressive Design Build



Webinar Here

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# Build momentum.

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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

Student &  
Teacher  
Resources



## PHOTO GALLERY

[HERE](#)



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





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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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