



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2021 October NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

Infrastructure Weak

A Speaker Pelosi-imposed deadline of September 27th to approve the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure package approved by the Senate in August came and went last week in the House. The failure to act on the measure forced both Chambers to hastily approve extensions of the FAST Act in order to prevent the furloughs of over 4,000 DOT employees and massive interruption in the funding and execution of state DOT highway programming.

While leading up to this week, many parties claimed that the infrastructure bill was not tied to the larger social program spending in the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill, but what became clear is that they are inextricably tied. Progressives in the House refused to support the infrastructure bill without a deal on the reconciliation bill and Democrat Senators Manchin and Sinema will not support the current reconciliation bill, leaving it 2 votes short of passage in the Senate.

So, where are we now? Congress approved a 30-day extension of the FAST Act to keep highway funds moving and DOT employees on the job. The White House, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer continue to negotiate the size and scope of the reconciliation bill to secure the support of Senators Manchin and Sinema thus breaking the gridlock with House progressives on the infrastructure bill.



What the Senate BiPartisan Infrastructure Deal (IIJA) Means for Illinois:

The Fast Act provided \$7.5 billion over 5 years in state formula funds for highways and bridges.

The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) would provide \$11.3 billion over 5 years in state formula funds for highways and bridges. In addition, IIJA would provide Illinois \$4.5 billion in transit funds.

[Check out the White House Fact Sheet for Illinois here.](#)

Far Credit Clause Waiver Advances to Senate

The House of Representatives approved the omnibus National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in a bi-partisan vote of 316-113. The bill, which sets the guidelines for defense policy, authorizes spending in line with the Pentagon's priorities, though it does not appropriate the spending itself.

Included in the House version of the NDAA is an amendment that would create a full-waiver from the FAR Credit Clause for forgiven PPP loans. Among the sponsors of the amendment are two strong ACEC Illinois advocates--Cong. Rodney Davis and Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi.

The legislation now awaits action by the Senate.



Illinois Senate Holds Hearing on Public Private Partnerships for Infrastructure

The Senate Transportation Committee, along with the Executive Subcommittee on Procurement, held a hearing Monday on **[Senate Bill 1900](#)**, which would

create a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Infrastructure Investment commission that would assist public entities with projects where a public-private partnership could take place.

[ACEC Illinois President and CEO Kevin Artl testified at this hearing and asked lawmakers](#) to focus private investment on projects and programs currently outside the scope of government funding to create a "force multiplier" for infrastructure investment in Illinois.

Artl also explained the need to change existing procurement rules not only for public private partnerships but for all business with state agencies.

"The unintended consequences of past "reform bills" have limited the ability of consultants to have this knowledge transfer with agencies. Unfortunately, at a time when we need innovation, collaboration and education between consultants and agencies the most--old laws with unintended consequences are blocking it.

Illinois is home to nation's most innovative engineers—we should take full advantage of our home-field talent."

The hearing was a subject matter hearing, so no vote was taken. It is anticipated that future stakeholder meetings will include agencies like IDOT and Tollway along with ACEC Illinois as lawmakers continue to refine the proposal.

In Case You Missed It: ACEC Illinois Leads Statewide Effort to Build Interest in Engineering

Careers

ACEC Illinois and our partners across the state's infrastructure industry have joined forces with the **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)** and the **Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Illinois Tollway)** to launch a campaign focused on building interest in careers in engineering among Illinois' students. With billions of dollars in investments from the State of Illinois' Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan and potentially billions more from a federal infrastructure bill, filling open engineering jobs with qualified workers is going to be vital to designing, engineering, and building the state's priority infrastructure projects.

Check out the [video and website here](#).

Media Coverage from Engineering Careers Campaign Launch

[Politico](#)

[Center Square](#)

[The Patch](#)

[Washington Examiner](#)

[Yahoo News](#)

[Press Release from Launch](#)

— **Gearing up:** The American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC-IL) is teaming up with the state to generate interest in engineering careers for Illinois students. The Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Tollway are among [agencies and organizations needing more qualified workers](#), said ACEC-IL's **Kevin Artl** in a statement. "Filling engineering jobs is going to be vital to designing, engineering, and building the state's priority infrastructure projects."

Politico

September 23, 2021

Other news

IDOT Adds New Counsel: **Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Omer Osman** announced the appointment of **Ellen Bruce** as the **Deputy Chief Counsel and Ethics Officer**, effective Oct. 1. Ms. Bruce is a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Law and most recently has been the Deputy General Counsel and Ethics Officer at the Illinois Department of Public Health

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



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Harvind Kaur Singh
President
Singh & Associates, Inc.

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- I have been working at Singh for 21 Years now!

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

- I have been on many committees and currently also serve as the chair of the Public Transportation committee

What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?

- Our business is based on relationships. ACEC offers events and ways to meet with industry peers. It is also about the advocacy. As a firm that is engaged in designed public infrastructure advocating for maintaining safe infrastructure is key to what we do. ACEC is that industry advocate.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- I am a reader. I enjoy all types of fiction. But my real desire is to pair my reading with traveling. But I can't feed my wanderlust yet.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I am proud of my native roots and speak Punjabi fluently. I am surprisingly fueled by tea, not coffee. Well, tea... and scotch.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

SE3 was founded in 2004 as a transportation design firm. We have since grown to provide planning, design, and construction management services to our clients in transportation, structural, drainage, development, water, sewer, and utilities in over 10 states nationwide.

What projects are you currently working on?

In our Lisle, IL office we are working on a multitude of projects for the Illinois Tollway and Illinois Department of Transportation. Most notably for the Tollway we are part of the Design Corridor Management team for the Central Tri-State (I-294) project, construction manager for the Archer Avenue interchange on I-294 and are providing design and construction management services for various Central Tri-State projects. For IDOT we are the prime consultant in District 1 for Geometrics Program Management, Phase II Various/Variou, Various Traffic Signal Designs, and Various Traffic Studies. We are also part of design teams for the I-80 corridor and structural engineering services for the I-280 Bridge over the Mississippi River. Our Kansas City, Denver, and Texas offices have over 60 active projects for a host of public and private clients.

What project are you most proud of?

We are most proud of the growth of our structural department to complement our transportation design services. We have been fortunate to obtain several roles on projects that have allowed us to showcase our strengths in this discipline.

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

ACEC-IL has provided our employees access to great education seminars and workshops along with terrific networking opportunities. Our staff has participated in several committees that have allowed us to be more in tune with the industry and to engage with decision makers within the overall market.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC-IL provides a sense of unity within our engineering community. It is the voice of our industry and provides member firms great advocacy, education, and leadership opportunities. The membership also provides many platforms for information and industry forums.

2022 EEA: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



PROJECT SUBMITTALS ARE OPEN



**Engineering
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FIRM OF THE YEAR
SUBMITTAL

EMERGING
PROFESSIONAL OF
THE YEAR SUBMITTAL

EEA PROJECT
SUBMITTAL

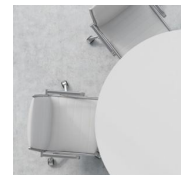
save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS

Touring Peoria - Bike Ride with PDH
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Time: 10:00am

ACEC invites you to join a group bike ride and earn a PDH touring Peoria's on-street bike lanes and off-street trails. The ride is for all levels and will start and end at the conference location of the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette on Wednesday, October 13 at 10am.



The route includes a visit to the under construction bike lane on

Washington Street, a pass through Bradley University, and sections of the Rock Island Greenway including along the Illinois River. The distance is flexible based on your interest and we intend to be done with enough time to attend the ACEC Board Meeting at 2:30pm Wednesday.

Please contact Greg Osborne with Epstein at gosborne@epsteinglobal.com to sign up and learn more.

Morning Golf
Wednesday, October 13, 2021



ACEC invites you to join fellow ACEC members for a round of golf before the Board Meeting.

We will see how many foursomes we can pull together but will be done in time to attend the ACEC Board Meeting at 2:30pm Wednesday.

Please contact Greg Cook with Farnsworth Group at gcook@f-w.com to sign up and learn more.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



ACEC Illinois Fall Conference
October 13, 2021 - October 14, 2021
Location: Peoria Marriott, Pere Marquette, 501 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

2:30pm Board Meeting
5:00pm ACEC Illinois Members Reception
Guest attendee: Congressman Darin LaHood

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

7:30-8:30am Breakfast
8:30-9:15am BREAKOUTS: Site Visit Guidelines & Sexual Harassment Course

9:30-10:30am IDOT Regional Update

10:45-11:30am BREAKOUTS: State & Federal Legislative Update & Performance Based Project Selections

11:45-1:00pm Lunch & Leading, Designing & Building Through COVID

1:15-2:00pm BREAKOUTS: IDOT Local Roads: The Drive Forward & IDOT Aeronautics Update

2:15-3:15pm Panel Discussion on SOI and Selection Process

3:30-4:30pm BREAKOUTS: IDOT Bridge Bundling Program & Bentley Technology Update

**Registration includes events Wednesday & Thursday, for all attendees.
7 Professional Development Hours for attending the Fall Conference.**

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Never Say Sell - How to Win, Maintain and Expand Your Clients

October 20, 2021 12pm-1pm

The authors of *Never Say Sell* (Wiley, 2020) and *How Clients Buy* (Wiley, 2018) Tom McMakin and Jacob Parks discuss the five-letter word that make us all cringe - sales. For those of us in the consulting world where skills are the “product,” we still must bring in clients to thrive. Tom and Jacob will share some advice with emerging professionals on how to participate in this vital part of running a successful business.

Complimentary Registration for ACEC Illinois members.

Register [Here](#)



Save the Date:

Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Osman-Springfield, IL

December 13, 2021 6pm-9pm

Join ACEC Illinois at the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** for a Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman. 6:00-9:00pm Museum Tours 7:00pm Remarks Come networking and enjoy appetizers and open bar all evening!



Save the Date: Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Osman- Chicago, IL

December 15, 2021 5:30pm-7:30pm

Join ACEC Illinois at the **Union League Club of Chicago** for a Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman. 5:30-7:30pm Come networking and enjoy appetizers and open bar all evening!



SAVE THE DATE: 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

February 17, 2021 6pm - 11:45pm

Additional Details Coming Soon!

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: emily@acecil.org

MEMBER UPDATES:

Peter Wallers, P.E., CFM, Chairman Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Multi-Award Winner



Congratulations to Peter Wallers, P.E., CFM, Chairman of the Board of Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) on being chosen for the Illinois Section of American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) Water Professional of the Year Award and for the Illinois Section of American Society of Civil Engineers (ISASCE) Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Pete graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Marquette University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) in Wisconsin and Illinois. He is also a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). Pete was named the President and CEO of EEI in 2006 and became Chairman of the Board in 2020.

The ISAWWA award is presented to a professional in the water industry (engineer, lab analyst, designer, representative, educator, etc.) that has demonstrated dedication and has motivated others to pursue a career in the water industry. It is selected from nominations by Section Members. Pete was presented the award at WATERCON, ISAWWA's annual conference, on August 10th.

Full Article [Here](#)



Ciorba Welcomes Ryan Jacox, PE, PTOE, RSP Roadway Project Manager

Ciorba Group, Inc. is pleased to announce Ryan Jacox, PE, PTOE, RSP₁ has joined our team as

Roadway Project Manager and will be a key addition to our preliminary engineering, Phase I services Team. With over 20 years of experience in comprehensive traffic and transportation-related engineering, he specializes in the areas of preliminary engineering studies, feasibility studies, traffic impact studies, traffic capacity analysis, intersection design studies, traffic signal system modeling, traffic signal design, roadway lighting photometrics and design, funding application/grant writing services, land acquisition engineering, and value engineering.

Full Article [Here](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

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Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Card
3rd Prize: \$25 GrubHub Gift Card



For a chance to win, click
here. Entries must be
received by October 12th.

Enter PAC Raffle [Here](#)

Traffic Noise Fundamentals and Traffic Noise Modeling with TNM 2.5 Training

October 4th-8th, 2021
Click [Here](#) For More Information

STATE NOISE POLICIES

- 2010 Update to 23 CFR 772
 - States update policies to ensure compliance
 - Final policies must be approved by July 13, 2011
- Each state assigned two reviewers
 - FHWA Resource Team member
 - FHWA Headquarters Team Member

TDOF Form: Title Number: 100-01, Project Name: [redacted], Date: [redacted], Approved by: [signature]

TNM 2.5 Software Interface

Receiver Name	Seq. #	Active	Meters
REC 4-100	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
REC 5-100	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
REC 7-100	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	



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FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



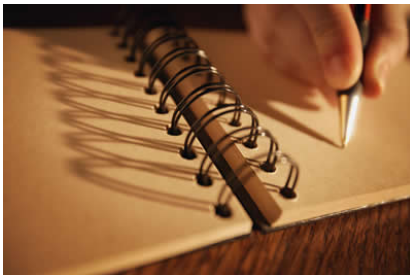
We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MEDIA PAGE

Follow the link: [Videos | ACEC-IL](#)



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