



2021 June
NEWSLETTER:
THE CONNECTOR



**LEADERSHIP &
POLICY BRIEFING**

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

[Illinois General Assembly Session Update](#)

Senate Confirms Omer Osman as IDOT Secretary: On Tuesday, the Illinois Senate unanimously confirmed Omer Osman to the position of IDOT Secretary. A 31 year veteran at the Illinois Department of Transportation, he has been confirmed as Illinois Transportation Secretary, the 13th to lead the agency since it was created in 1972.

State Budget: The House and Senate approved a budget that did not include the Governor's proposed cuts to transportation (\$100m transfer from Road Fund to Transit and a delay in the sales tax going to Road Fund). In total, we estimate this providing an additional \$200m in funding for the FY22-FY27 MYP since the MYP assumed these cuts would happen. ACEC IL worked with TFIC to oppose these transfers and delays.

\$1 billion in New Capital Spend: The budget contains \$1 billion in new capital spend funded by Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. While it is unclear right now what these projects are, ARPA funds are limited water, sewer and broadband projects.

Trailer Registration Fee: SB 58, legislation that would decrease the registration fee for trailers under 3,000 pounds to \$36 and increase the certificate of title fee by \$5. This represents a compromise supported by TFIC and will ensure that, while trailer fees are reduced, transportation funding will not be decreased.

The amendment also contains a change pursued by car dealers that would restore the credit against sales tax owed for new car purchases in the amount of the value of traded in cars. This credit was eliminated to help fund the vertical construction side of the Rebuild Illinois program. The revenues lost as a result of this change would be recovered through a used car use tax.

Electronic Signatures: Requires IDOT, Tollway, CDB and Comptroller to accept electronic signatures for contracts, invoices and documents. Approved by House and Senate and sent to Governor for signature.

Energy: The House and Senate are close on legislation that would provide new funding to keep Illinois' fleet of nuclear plants operational. The last minute issue developing with this legislation is a deadline for coal-fired plants to cease operation by 2035 and while Ameren and Exelon have agreed, there are remaining issues with some non-profit facilities across Illinois that would like an exemption. It is expected that both the House and Senate will return this month to reach a solution.

Elections and Redistricting: As a result of the 10-year census requirement, the House and Senate approved new legislative maps that will be in effect for the 2022 election cycle. To view the new maps, [click here](#). Congressional maps will likely be considered this Fall, as a result of the delay, the legislature voted to move the primary back from March to June 28th.

The Bottom Line: No cuts to transportation, IDOT FY22 MYP gains \$200 million, the trailer fee issue was resolved without impact to Rebuild Illinois, \$1b in new capital spend, electronic signatures approved and Acting Secretary Omer Osman becomes Secretary Omer Osman.

[Federal Infrastructure Update](#)

FAST ACT Reauthorization: The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed a five-year, \$303.5 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill on May 26 by a unanimous vote of 20-0.

Entitled the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021, the bill boosts total highway funding from fiscal year 2022 to 2026 by 34 percent over the baseline established by the one-year extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation or FAST Act passed in October 2020.

The EPW's bill also provides \$273.2 billion or 90 percent of its total funding via formula apportionments to states and retains all current core formula programs, including a 55 percent suballocation for Surface Transportation Block Grant programs.

Should this new reauthorization formula remain intact, it is estimated Illinois may see an increase of potentially \$400 million annually for Highways.

National Infrastructure Bill: A group of six key Republican senators increased their infrastructure funding counteroffer on May 27 to the \$2.3 trillion [American Jobs Plan](#) proposed by President Joe Biden on March 31.

The Republicans increased their counteroffer to \$928 billion over eight years – up from a five-year, \$568 billion [infrastructure investment framework](#) originally proposed on April 22 – that would be largely paid for by “repurposing” unused federal funds previously allocated for COVID-19 relief efforts.

The Republican \$928 billion counteroffer would set aside \$506 billion for roads and bridges; \$98 billion for public transit systems; \$46 billion for railroads, including boosted funding for Amtrak; \$21 billion for safety needs; \$22 billion for ports and waterways; \$56 billion for airports; \$72 billion for water infrastructure; \$65 billion for broadband; and \$20 billion for infrastructure financing.

Earmarks...err I mean Member Designated Projects: To view all the projects that members of Congress have asked for consideration in the National Infrastructure bill, [click here](#).

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

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Brian Welker
Sr. Vice President & COO
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

I have been in the industry for 38 years plus three summers with a county highway department during college.

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

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, I currently co-chair the Risk Management Committee with Paula Dixon. I am also a member of the Information Technology Committee.

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

The advocacy and resources that ACEC-IL provides to member firms to advance our industry and make it stronger in Illinois. The recent effort by the ACEC-IL IDOT Local Roads task force to drive innovation and update Local Roads processes is an excellent example. Other great examples are the Human Resources and Information Technology webinars during COVID where firms with dedicated staff were able to share best practices with other members.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

My wife, Sue, and I enjoy traveling and outdoor activity. We enjoy discovering craft breweries both locally and when we travel. In warmer months, on weekends I enjoy road biking.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

As many know, Representative Tim Butler is my wife's younger brother. When Tim was in college, in an attempt to get him to join the engineering industry I encouraged him to apply for a summer internship with CMT and Sue and I offered to let him live with us for the summer. While unsuccessful at getting Tim to pursue engineering, it did provide a great foundation for his great support of infrastructure in the state of Illinois. In year two or three of Tim's summer internship our son was born, Tim ended up sharing the room with him. They developed quite a bond and Tim will be the officiant for his wedding in late June.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Quigg Engineering, Inc.



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

QEI has been in the engineering industry for 15 years. Thirteen years under the leadership of Lori Quigg, and the past 2.5 years under the leadership of Mohammed Saleem.

What projects are you currently working on?

Some key projects we are working on include:

- The I-74 Mississippi River Bridge for Phase III
- Burnham Multi-modal Corridor Connector
- Illinois Tollway - Mile Long Bridge
- Illinois River Bridge Replacement at Beardstown
- Illinois River Bridge Replacement at Florence
- I-57/I-74 Interchange Reconstruction
- I-39/ US 20 design with Benesch
- US 20 Business (West State Street) in Rockford
- IL 75 bridge replacement over the Rock River
- North Lake Shore Dr
- City of Chicago Divy Bike and Surface Transportation

What project are you most proud of?

It's really difficult to pick just one, so one of the top ones is The I-74 Mississippi River Bridge for Phase III.

The I-74 Mississippi River Bridge inspection project represents an opportunity for QEI to highlight the capability of its CEI staff and the training and support QEI gives to all its inspection crews. The I-74 Mississippi River bridge is the most complex and expensive infrastructure project Iowa DOT has ever administered and represents a category of work that few consultants are trusted to work on. We take great care to perform our duties in a manner that assures quality construction and easily auditable records, for the DOT and the FHWA. Our staff knows that this project and the magnificent structure being constructed across the river will live far longer than they will and is a testament to all those involved. For QEI the project represents a breakthrough in project pursuits and has set QEI apart as being involved with the construction inspection of more Tied Arch bridges in Illinois than any other local firm, helping to grow our expertise and prepare us to take on even greater challenges in the future. We always knew we could perform to this level and now we have the proof. Iowa DOT personnel have remarked that we are not on this project just because we are a DBE but because we know what we are doing, and our performance reflects that. Those kind words from a client are what make us proud!

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

Connecting with other firms and networking has been a considerable benefit. Coming together to solve issues that everyone is having, gives us a sense of accomplishment not just for ourselves but also for the whole industry. It's also important to feel as though we are not in it alone and that we have the support of ACEC and member firms. ACEC is our voice to reinforce that we want to be an extension of IDOT and Tollway staff to make IL better.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

Joining ACEC allows new firms to network and meet each other, put a face with a name, and get to know colleagues on a personal basis. Our lifelong friends become the people we work with, and QEI appreciates the continuous learning and information sharing that goes on as part of ACEC between firms of different scales, big or small.

save the date

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Webinar: Cyber Ransom Negotiation

June 10, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am

Register [Here](#)



Coffee with Colleagues

June 15, 2021 from 9:00am-10:00am

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: MYP Update with Secretary Osman

June 21, 2021 from 11:00am-12:00pm

Register [Here](#)



Board Meeting

June 23, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm

Register [Here](#)



ACEC Illinois Golf Outing

June 23, 2021 at 12 p.m.

Register [Here](#)



2021 Leadership Series

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.

Participants: A professional who is, or will be, transitioning from technical manager to business manager who shows commitment to the industry and to their firm.

- 5 Sessions across the state of Illinois
 - Program Costs
 - Printed material and binders
 - Meals, Beverages, and Snacks
 - PDH Certificates will be awarded
- Register [Here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

MEMBER UPDATES:



Klingner Designer Earns Professional Engineer Registration

QUINCY, IL, MAY 4, 2021 – Dallas Haerr, PE, of Klingner & Associates, PC (Klingner) has earned his Professional Engineer (PE) license from the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation.

Haerr, who joined the firm's Quincy branch in 2016, designs mechanical, plumbing, lighting, power, and low voltage systems for various clients throughout the Tri-States. His major mechanical / electrical design projects have included Iles Elementary School in Quincy, IL; Brown County Early Learning Center in Mount Sterling, IL; and Macomb Middle School in Macomb, IL, among others. Haerr holds a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering from Kansas State University.



Benton & Associates, Inc. Announces a New Associate

Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Associate.

Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce **Stefanie J. Ballinger, PE**, has achieved the position of becoming an Associate 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 has taken on a key role in leading general civil and transportation projects.

Stefanie is a licensed professional engineer, now based in Jacksonville and previously in Macomb. Stefanie 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.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



SRF Consulting Group
564 W. Randolph Group, Suite 255
Chicago, IL 60661
(773)-420-6695
www.srfconsulting.com

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:

Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.
1200 Jorie Blvd., Ste. 300
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630)-534-7717
www.efleets.com



Thank you Mike Bost for meeting with out ACEC Illinois Board of Director's. We appreciated the update and open conversation.



ILLINOIS RAIL NEEDS
ASSESSMENT

YOU'RE INVITED!
to a **VIRTUAL** public event

ILLINOISRAILNEEDS.ORG/VIRTUALEVENT

Available JUNE 1 – 14, 2021

Visitors will have the opportunity to watch a video, view exhibits, complete a survey and provide comments. All comments received will be considered for the final report.

ACEC Illinois 100th Anniversary Poster

This year ACEC Illinois celebrates its **100th Year Anniversary**.

When looking back at the engineering accomplishments of the last 100 years in Illinois, there is quite a bit to be proud of.

To commemorate our Centennial Anniversary, we commissioned an Illinois artist to design a print exclusively for ACEC Illinois, to highlight and celebrate the diversity of innovation and excellence that our association and industry is known for.

Please click the link below to purchase a 100th anniversary poster for your office!

<https://www.cvent.com/d/vjqt69>



SELECTING A PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROGRAM

The following material is provided for informational purposes only. Before taking any action that could have legal or other important consequences, speak with a qualified professional who can provide guidance that considers your unique circumstances.

You knew from the beginning that using your brother-in-law as your insurance agent wasn't the wisest business decision you had ever made since starting your architect firm. After all, Fred specialized in accountant's professional liability (PL) insurance, not PL insurance for design professionals. But he said he had access to a good market for design professional's PL and, anyway, professional liability insurance was pretty much the same regardless of your profession. With a little pressure from Fred's sister (your wife) you caved and kept the insurance business all in the family.

Fred was able to get you a basic PL policy with low but, at least for now, adequate limits and few loss prevention services. The claims service wasn't all that hot either. When you had a dispute with a client over water intrusion in the terrarium of an office building you designed, you thought it was clearly a construction error by the contractor. But the insurance company seemed more interested in settling the claim than showing your designs were not faulty.

You stuck with Fred and the bare bones PL policy he recommended as your business continued to slowly grow. Then, your designs drew the attention of a large potential client who wanted to hire you for a sprawling new office complex. The trouble was that the prospective client demanded higher insurance limits than Fred could deliver. Fred suggested that you try to convince the prospect to lower its insurance demands.

You reached the conclusion that Fred's knowledge (or lack thereof) of the architect and engineer (A/E) industry could cost you substantial business. It was time to move on and find an A/E specialist who could meet the heightened needs of your growing business and help you keep your present and future clients happy.

CHOOSING YOUR AGENT OR BROKER

Finding the right professional liability insurance program begins with finding the right agent or broker. Indeed, most insurance companies (a.k.a. carriers) demand that design consultants work through a third-party agent or broker and will not negotiate directly with an A/E client.



Continue to article [Here](#)

We21

The World's Largest Conference
for Women Engineers

Recruit Top Talent at WE21

SWE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WE20,
HELD VIRTUALLY LAST YEAR, DREW
CLOSE TO 19,000 GLOBAL ATTENDEES!

aspire to INSPIRE

OCTOBER
21-23
2021
Indianapolis, IN
INDIANA
CONVENTION CENTER



In an effort to partner with small to mid size businesses and assist in reaching their diversity recruitment goals, SWE is piloting a Small Business Pavilion at our Career Fair, which is the largest Career Fair for women in engineering and technology.

THURSDAY / OCTOBER 21 - FRIDAY / OCTOBER 22, 2021
COMPANIES MUST HAVE 250 EMPLOYEES OR LESS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AND PARTICIPATE

With over **300 exhibitors in the Career Fair**, the pavilion is a dedicated area with a limit of 6 companies able to participate in this opportunity on a first come, first served basis.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Special event signage
- 60-day resume database access to SWE's online Career Center (30 days prior and 30 days post-conference)
- 2 full complimentary registrations with the option to purchase 2 exhibitor only passes at \$100 each - Shipping 200 lbs. freight, 1 outlet (4 plugs) shared between 2 companies, wastebasket, pipe and drape, carpet included
- \$2,500 per 10'x5' space including a 4 ft. table and 2 chairs*

To learn more and secure your space, contact: [Judy Burke / judy.burke@swe.org](mailto:judy.burke@swe.org) / 312.325.7466

*Price will increase to \$2,700 after August 13, pending availability

WE21.SWE.ORG

#WE21



Blues OR Bliss??

Did your health insurance renewal give you the blues?
Were you presented:

- alternate carriers or alternate networks within the same carrier for savings opportunities?
- a reduction in medical spend by bundling other lines of coverage?
- alternate funding solutions

Far too often, brokers wait until the renewal to analyze these items and the result is that it doesn't leave a whole lot of time to actually make changes. If you are looking for a partner the entire year and not just at renewal, please give us a call.

Dan Daley:
630.737.9358 | ddaley@GoCGO.com



Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

FIND OUT



A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

Contact Lydia Zabrycki at (559) 284.0370 lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com www.acecrt.com



Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. Grab your cup of coffee, join the meeting, and then be ready for a 30-45min breakout group.



COFFEE WITH COLLEAGUES
Third Tuesday of the Month
at 9:00am

Join us for a
Virtual Coffee Break!



100
ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

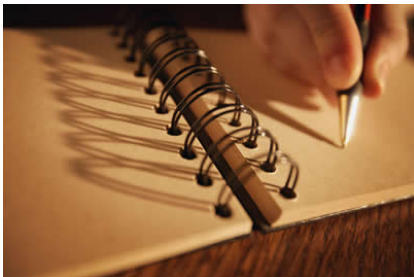
2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100th Anniversary

Be on the lookout for some
exciting announcements and
reflections throughout the year.



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
