



## 2021 July NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



### LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

#### **Federal Update**

##### **House Passes \$720 Billion Infrastructure Bill; Includes \$592 Billion for Surface Transportation**

The House of Representatives approved the \$720 billion INVEST in America Act last Thursday. The bill, which passed by a vote of 221 to 201 along mostly partisan lines, includes a five-year \$592 billion surface transportation reauthorization that would provide \$343 billion to roads, bridges and safety, \$109 billion to transit, and \$95 billion to passenger and freight rail.

The legislation would commit \$105 billion over ten years to drinking water infrastructure and replacement of lead service lines, and \$54 billion to wastewater infrastructure.

The bill also marks the return of earmarks after a long ban, including about \$5.7 billion for nearly 1,500 projects that lawmakers seek to fund in their districts. To view the list of earmarks, err, I mean “Member Designated Projects”, [click here](#).

Among our concerns are the bill removes both the nationwide VMT implementation pilot program and the extension of transportation revenues—gas and diesel taxes and truck taxes—flowing into the Trust Fund. However, it is estimated that the new formulas may provide Illinois with an additional \$400 million annually for transportation projects.

The INVEST in America Act has a deadline for passage of September 30<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Senate Crafts Bi-Partisan Compromise for National Infrastructure Bill**

In the Senate, the Administration and a bipartisan group of Senators continue to drum up support for their \$1.2 trillion compromise infrastructure deal, with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) saying he wants to move on infrastructure this month.

Passage of an infrastructure bill this year would provide huge benefits to the national economy and the engineering industry.

[The ACEC Infrastructure Scenarios Impact on Forecast report](#), which was released last week, estimates that the Senate bipartisan agreement would create more than 82,000 full and part-time jobs in engineering and design services and generate \$62 billion in A/E industry wages, and the sector

would add \$75 billion to GDP. Overall, the proposal would lead to a 6% average annual increase in engineering and design services sector activity over the next six years, pushing annual output from \$352 billion in 2021 to \$416 billion by 2026.

ACEC Illinois membership met with Senator Duckworth to discuss the potential of this transformative investment on Illinois.

### **House Approves PPP Fix Modeled After ACEC Illinois Negotiated Guidance**

The House-passed transportation and water infrastructure bill, the INVEST in America Act (H.R. 3684), includes a provision to narrow the impact of a credit for forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loans on firms working for State Departments of Transportation. The amendment would limit the FAR credit to federal dollars in contract payments and is designed to prevent State DOTs from applying the FAR provision to state-funded contracts. The language is similar to the negotiated language reached between ACEC Illinois and IDOT that limited to the scope of the FAR credit clause to Federally-funded engineering contracts. The legislation now heads to the Senate.

### **INFRA Grants Announced**

US DOT announced the award of \$905.25 million in INFRA grants to 24 projects in 18 states, including two Illinois projects. The Archer Avenue and Belt Railway of Chicago grade separation project was awarded \$19.138 million and the Village of Plainfield was awarded \$5 million for the IL Route 126/143rd Street re-route improvement program. More on the awards is [here](#).

### **STATE UPDATE**

#### **REBUILD Illinois Funding Follows Program**

On July 1st, this week, the gas tax increased by about a half-cent as part of the Rebuild Illinois gas tax indexing approved in 2019. The increase will help Illinois' transportation user fees keep up with increasing costs over the coming years. In addition, the first 1% of the state's 5% sales tax on gas will begin to be deposited in the Transportation Renewal Fund.

#### **Travia Named IDOT Director of Highways Project Implementation-Chief Engineer**

IDOT Secretary Omer Osman announced the appointment of Stephen Travia as the Director of Highways Project Implementation – Chief Engineer. Mr. Travia is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. He began his IDOT career in 1991 as a Civil Engineer Trainee and has over 30 years of experience in the transportation and highway engineering field. Mr. Travia has most recently served as Region One Bureau Chief of Traffic, Region One Operations Engineer and Region One Project Implementation Engineer.

#### **Lake County Infrastructure Funding Begins This Month**

A 4-cent per gallon local fuel tax expected to generate about \$10 million per year for road projects in Lake County went into effect July 1. The \$53 million the tax is estimated to generate over the five-year period is about 8% of the overall \$688 million program, which includes 340 projects big and small. ACEC Illinois supported the Lake County Board's proposal to implement a 4-cent per gallon county option motor fuel tax to fund a backlog of road improvement projects.

Learn more about Lake County's upcoming program as well as the other Collar Counties at the ACEC Illinois County Engineer Luncheon on July 13<sup>th</sup>. [Register today—in-person and virtual options available.](#)

#### **ACEC Illinois Offers Mandatory Sexual Harassment Training**

Annual Sexual Harassment training is required by law for every employee in Illinois. In addition, a 1-hour Sexual Harassment Training pdh is required for license renewal. ACEC Illinois is offering this training and more in its Summer Business Workshop, including Diversity Training and a panel discussion with leadership from IDOT, the Tollway and the Governor's office. Group pricing is available---[register today](#). If you cannot make July 15<sup>th</sup> event, videos and subsequent PDHs will be emailed to all registrants.

### **SUMMER READING**

[Check out this great read](#) on Illinois' Secretary of Transportation—Omer Osman.

Also worth your time [is this article](#) on Washington's shift in the use of user fees to pay for infrastructure.

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

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Linda Moen, PE, PTOE, LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP  
President  
EFK Moen, LLC.

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

36 years - 13 years at MoDOT (I held the positions of Highway Designer through Area Engineer) and 23 years as the Managing Member of EFK Moen, LLC

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

Board Member - I have also held several Board positions with ACEC-Missouri

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

To enjoy the camaraderie of industry partners WORKING TOGETHER to improve our businesses

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

Reading and doing home-improvement projects

**Tell us one fun fact about yourself.**

I am a Lego-Maniac!

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

D.B. Sterlin Consultants, Inc.



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

24 years, Since 1997

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

DB Sterlin is a Chicago-based customized engineering and consulting services firm that has established itself as an industry leader over more than two decades. We provide a personal touch while offering a full suite of services, a diverse roster of experts, and a track record of success. We're known for our versatility, and for getting results. DBS is currently working on The Illinois Tollway, CDOT, IDOT and Private utility companies.

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

The project we are most proud of is the Construction Management of the Chicago Bridge Projects. We can easily say that no other engineering firms in Chicago has the experience on the iconic Chicago bridges as DB Sterlin.

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

We see the biggest benefit with ACEC is Networking, Advocacy and Education. ACEC works with all firms to make sure that the issues that impact our businesses are addressed. It also provides a forum to discuss innovation and best practices.

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

Firms should join ACEC because it is challenging to be the only voice with industry issues but with the Advocacy of ACEC you have a collective team behind you.

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save the date  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



### Luncheon: County Engineers Panel Discussion

July 13, 2021

11:00am - 1:30pm

Join ACEC Illinois' County Engineering luncheon Panel discussion with County Engineering: Carl Schoedel - Kane County, Jeff Ronaldson - Will County, Jennifer "Sis" Killen - Cook County, Joe Korpalski - McHenry, Shane Schneider - Lake County Moderated by ACEC Illinois Regional Chair: Tom Smiles, Epstein Global

Register [Here](#)



### Virtual Summer Business Workshop

July 15, 2021

8:00am - 4:00pm

One day virtual workshop with 5 sessions and 5 PDH's available.

Single registration and sponsorship with multiple registrants is available.

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](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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# MEMBER UPDATES:

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## Klingner Hires Water/Wastewater Engineering Assistant

**GALESBURG, IL, JUNE 7, 2021** — Klingner & Associates, PC (Klingner) has welcomed Ashleigh Nutzhorn to its Water / Wastewater Department as an Engineering Assistant. Nutzhorn, who is based in the Galesburg office, will provide technical support and engineering assistance for projects throughout Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Architectural) from Olivet Nazarene University.

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## Rich Nowak Joins Syska Hennessy as National Director of Business Development

**New York, NY** — The global engineering firm [Syska Hennessy](#) has appointed Rich Nowak national director of business development and associate vice president. Based at Syska's New York City headquarters, Mr. Nowak will oversee the growth of multiple practices and services across the U.S. Full Article [Here](#)

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## Klingner Designer Earns Engineer Intern Registration

**QUINCY, IL, JUNE 3, 2021** — Austin Wiegand of Klingner & Associates, PC (Klingner) has become a registered Engineer Intern with the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation. This is the first step towards obtaining his Professional Engineer licensure. Wiegand is a Mechanical / Electrical designer based in the firm's Quincy, IL, branch who assists with the design of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing system

projects for educational, religious, government, healthcare, and commercial facilities. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Math from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.



Christoph

## ACEC Illinois Members Making a Difference

Following the massive ChemTool fire in the city of Rockton, the Illinois Emergency Management Association reached out to ACEC Illinois for help with volunteers to conduct an environmental damage assessment. 12 CBBEL interns volunteered to support the [Illinois Emergency Management Agency](#). The interns spent three days on site and performed more than 1,100 surveys of residential and business properties for potential impacts from the fire.

That's making a difference.

## ACEC-IL Firms Recognized at ACEC National EEA Competition

NS Grand River Bridge emergency repairs

Norfolk Southern Railway Co.



Lakefront Trail Pedestrian Bridge, Chicago, IL

Chicago Department of Transportation



**Hanson Professional Services, Inc. and HNTB Corporation** were recognized at the ACEC National Awards Gala. Hanson's project "NS Grand River Bridge Emergency Repairs" was awarded the National Recognition Award. The National Recognition Award is a prestigious distinction honoring projects which achieved exceptional engineering excellence. HNTB's project "Lakefront Pedestrian Bridge" received the Grand Award. By being selected as a Grand Award winner, the project was a finalist for the 2021 Grand Conceptor Award, which signifies the year's best overall engineering achievement. Congratulations to both firms on their achievements!

## CBBEL Interns Help Illinois Emergency Management



Rosemont, IL (June 30, 2021) – Twelve summer interns from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) volunteered to support the Illinois Emergency Management Agency after the fire at a chemical plant in Rockton.

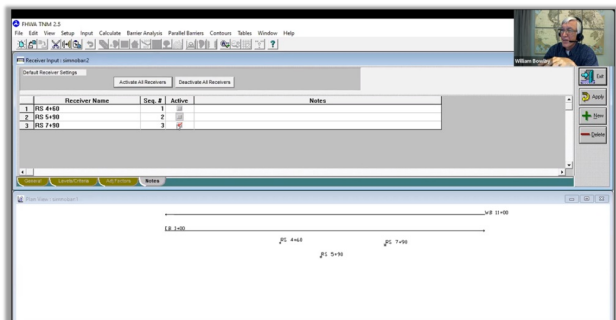
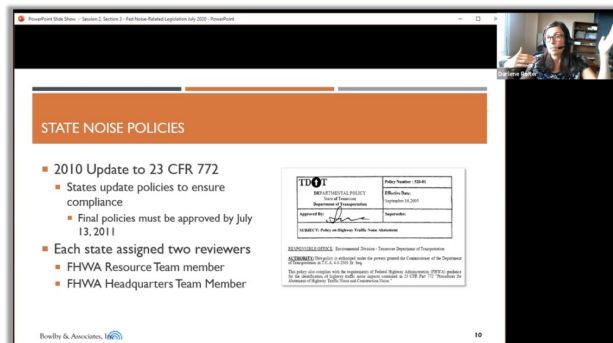
Full Article [Here](#)

## WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:



J. Krug  
One Pierce Place Suite 1250W  
Itasca, IL 60143  
847-818-7524  
[www.jkrug.com](http://www.jkrug.com)

## Traffic Noise Fundamentals and Traffic Noise Modeling with TNM 2.5 Training



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

## WELCOME NEW ACEC-IL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Business Development  
Dave Clark

DBE/WBE/MBE  
Ray Kumapley

Human Resources  
Kristy Allen



ESI Consultants, Ltd.

SE3, LLC

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

**Risk Management**  
Paula Dixon  
Holmes Murphy & Associates

**Capital Development Board**  
John Naughton  
Orion Engineers

**IDOT**  
Brad Riechmann  
Horner & Shifrin, Inc.

**IEPA/IDNR**  
Mike Hartoin  
SCI Engineering, Inc.

**USACE Rock Island**  
Darren Forgy  
Prairie Engineers, P.C.

**IDOT District One**  
Mike Zorn  
Lochner

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
District**  
Thomas Burke  
Christopher B. Burke  
Engineering, Ltd.

**Public Transportation**  
Beth McCluskey  
AECOM

**USACE Chicago**  
Steve McLaughlin  
Burns & McDonnell

**Regional Informational  
Luncheon**  
Tom Smiles  
A. Epstein & Sons International

**Regional Informational  
Luncheon**  
Gary Hoelscher  
Millennia Professional Services

**Construction**  
Ryan Macander  
OMEGA

**Diversity and Inclusion**  
Duana Love  
TransSmart

**Financial Management**  
Geri Boyer  
Kaskaskia Engineering Group

**Government Affairs**  
Bruce Schopp  
Oates & Associates, Inc.



## **IAHE Golf Outing**

September 15, 2021

St. Andrews Country Club in West Chicago

Register [Here](#)

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# 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](mailto:ddaley@GoCGO.com)



## Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

FIND OUT

**ACEC**  **RT**  
A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

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



We would love to see your  
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

**#ACECILPETS**

**FURRY FRIENDS**

#ACECILPETS



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## 2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

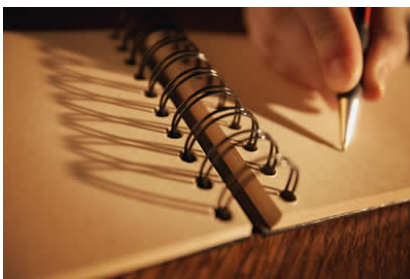
Be on the lookout for some exciting announcements and reflections throughout the year.



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## 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](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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