



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Illinois*

## 2020 August NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



### LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

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#### FEDERAL UPDATE

**Senate/House Impasse On COVID Relief:** There was great hope that another COVID Relief bill would be approved before the end of July, especially given that key unemployment benefits were set to expire. Unfortunately, when it comes to Congress, betting on nothing is always the safest bet. In June, the House approved a COVID Relief bill (HEROES Act) along a party-line vote. That measure included an extension of the unemployment assistance along with \$15 billion for state Departments of Transportation, \$15.75 billion for mass transit and an additional \$875 billion for state and local government assistance. In mid-July, the Senate began drafting their own bill that was a pared down version of the House Bill and included no assistance to State DOTs and very little to states and local government. The House, Senate and White House are now negotiating towards a final package—but both sides recognize the deep divide.

**House Takes Action on Infrastructure:** The House passed its six-bill FY 2021 minibus, which included a THUD (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Committee) measure that is much larger compared to recent years as it includes additional COVID-19 relief for FY 2021. Coming in at \$107.2 billion in total USDOT funding, key aspects include \$62.9 billion for the Federal Highway Administration, \$18.9 billion for the Federal Transit Administration, \$18.1 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, and \$3 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration.

**Airports Get Boost:** The Federal Aviation Administration awarded more than \$273 million in airport safety and infrastructure grants to 41 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Puerto Rico on July 28. The total includes just over \$242 million from the agency's **Airport Improvement Program** (AIP) and \$31 million in **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security or CARES Act grants** that will equal a 100 percent federal share.

**DOT Launches ADA Strategic Plan:** The Americans with Disabilities Act, known simply as the ADA, turned 30 years old on July 26. As part of a virtual event celebrating the ADA's 30th anniversary on

July 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation unveiled what it called a “first-of-its-kind” **accessibility strategic plan** to ensure a “unified vision” and “clear path forward” to continue removing barriers in transportation access for people with disabilities. That document – expected to be published at the end of 2020 – will include specific goals that will guide USDOT’s accessibility work for the next five years, explained USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao in a **statement**.

## STATE UPDATES

**IDOT Releases FY 21-26 MYP:** Governor Pritzker and Acting IDOT Secretary Omer Osman released the FY21-FY26 Multi Year Program. The six-year, \$21.3 billion program would fund 3,356 miles of road improvements and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck. While COVID has impacted MFT revenue, the current MYP budget was not impacted by those revenue reductions.

For a comprehensive review of the program, visit **here**. To view the projects included in the MYP by IDOT District, visit **here**. The Transportation for Illinois Coalition ran the numbers on what’s included in the new MYP. **Click here** to view their analysis.

**Engineering in the MYP:** An estimated \$1.68 billion is included in the FY21-26 MYP for engineering, including \$1.37 billion for new engineering and \$317 million for engineering in progress.

**IDOT Releases \$250 million in Local Road Funds:** IDOT announced that \$250 million in infrastructure grants will be dedicated to local government agencies. The funding represents part of \$1.5 billion that is being distributed to local government agencies over three years. Using the funds, recipients can conduct projects to improve roads and bridges, traffic signals, storm sewers, bicycle paths, sidewalks and other long-term maintenance needs. Projects will be selected and managed locally, and IDOT will maintain oversight.

A complete list of local agencies and awards can be viewed **here**.

**ACEC IL/IDOT Local Roads Task Force Continues Work:** Led by ACEC IL IDOT Committee Chair John Clark, the ACEC IL Local Roads Task Force and IDOT are continuing to meet and work collaboratively in an effort to improve the local roads agreement process.

**Tollway:** Board Chair Orhan Ulger and myself recently had the opportunity to meeting with Tollway Executive Director Jose’ Alvarez. The Tollway is currently planning their next program which should be introduced to the legislature next year.

**Legislative Veto Session:** In conversations with Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Ram Villivalam, he briefed me that veto session could potentially be a long one this year as the General Assembly will have to consider many issues that were pushed from the abbreviated Spring Session along with emerging issues resulting from COVID, including mass transit.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

**“U” Shaped Recovery Looking More Likely:** As the global coronavirus pandemic continues into the third quarter of 2020, economists predict that a “V shaped” recovery—with a quick “bounce back” to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity—is increasingly unlikely. Keeping the virus in check is still very much a challenge, and the need for social distancing— including possible stay-at-home orders— although necessary, will have an economic impact. The National Association of Business Economics (NABE) June 2020 Outlook shows 80% of economists surveyed view either a vaccine or a comprehensive testing/tracing program as the greatest upside risks to the economy. With neither of these imminent, forecasters are seeing a longer recovery. NABE Outlook panelists expect real GDP to decline 5.9% in 2020, and rising only 3.6% in 2021—indicating more of a “claw back” than a “bounce back”. Nearly 90% of the economists surveyed believe the U.S. economy will not return to its pre-COVID-19 level until at least the second half of 2021. FMI also forecasts a “U-shaped” trend in the design and construction markets with a 9% overall decline in 2020, followed by further declines in subsequent years.

For more details, check out our exclusive **Private Industry Brief**.

## In closing...

ACEC IL is continuing to work to provide the best guidance for firms as it relates to PPP loan forgiveness. We have formed a small task force and are working the Dan Purvine from AE Clarity to define options and approaches. More information is expected to be coming soon at the Federal Level and we will communicate that as soon as available along with options for moving forward.

Finally, last week I had the opportunity to participate in a “Lunch and Learn” for RM Chin where I went over the funding challenges created by COVID along with the potential solutions being considered. If your firm would be interested in that conversation, feel free to contact me to schedule such a meeting.

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## Federal Update with Congressman Mike Bost

Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

9am-10am

DETAILS & REGISTRATION: [HERE](#)

Congressman Mike Bost, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will provide ACEC IL members with an update on COVID Relief and Recovery measures along with current status of a federal infrastructure bill and reauthorization of the FAST Act.

Congressman Bost represents Illinois' 12th District, prior to that he served in the Illinois legislature and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a former firefighter.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the

*Hello Summer*

## 2020 ACEC/PAC Sweepstakes

Congratulations to our winners!

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Steve Donahue (Horner & Shifrin, Inc.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - John Fortman (TranSystems)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Kristen Hamilton (Hamilton Consulting Engineers, Inc.)

ACEC/PAC plays an essential role in advancing policies at the national level benefitting the engineering industry. Through support of members of Congress, ACEC/PAC has helped to secure a number of recent legislative and regulatory wins!

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Illinois



**1st Prize: Traeger Grill**  
(\$400 Value)

**2nd Prize: BUNN Gourmet Gift Card**  
(\$200 Value)

**3rd Prize: Cooper's Hawk Gift Card**  
(\$100 Value)





ACEC member action is requested to urge the Senate to act on legislation to invest in the nation's critical transportation infrastructure.

click: [HERE](#)



### **Bowman Consulting Group Announces Brian J. McPartlin Joining Lisle, IL Office**

Lisle, IL July 2, 2020- Bowman Consulting Group (Bowman) is pleased to announce that Brian J. McPartlin has joined the firm as Principal for the Lisle and Chicago, IL offices. Brian brings enthusiasm, energy, and an extensive knowledge of the Chicago metropolitan area and Illinois market.

(Continue article [HERE](#))

### **ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.'S MEMBER EARNS APWA CPII CERTIFICATION**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. is pleased to announce that Nadia L. Schweisthal, P.E. has become a Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII). The certification program is governed by the CPII Council of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The purpose of the Public Infrastructure Inspector Certification is to promote quality infrastructure throughout the community by advancing the knowledge and practice of construction inspection to benefit the community and public agencies.

(Continue article [HERE](#))

# save the date

## UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



### Virtual: IDOT Bridge Seminar

Registration: Coming Soon!

**Save the dates:** two hour sessions on the following dates...

September 29 & 30

October 1, 5, 7, 13 & 15



### 2021 Leadership Series

January 2021 - June 2021

One Session a Month

PDH's

Limited Availability

\*more information coming soon!

## WELCOME NEW MEMEBRS:

### Non-Resident Member Firm

Hg Consult, Inc.

Address: 206 Hollytree Ct.

Ballwin, MO 63021

Phone: 314.312.0688

[www.hgcons.com](http://www.hgcons.com)

### Affiliate Member

Reliable Asphalt Corporation

Address: 3741 S. Pulaski Road

Chicago, IL 60623

Phone: 773.254.1121

**ACEC/ ACEC Illinois Dues:**

ACEC/ACEC-IL dues invoices for the 2020-2021 membership year were mailed May 1, 2020 with a due date of July 1, 2020.

If you have not received your annual dues invoice, please contact Sasha Cadigan at: [Sasha@acecil.org](mailto:Sasha@acecil.org).

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## SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

Please submit 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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