



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2023 January
NEWSLETTER:
THE CONNECTOR



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL

ACEC Illinois Attends Vice President's Visit to Illinois \$144 million Delivered for Illinois Bridges



Last week, ACEC Illinois joined Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to Chicago, along with Senator Dick Durbin, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Gary Mayor Jerome Prince and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to announce \$144 million in federal funding awarded to the City of Chicago to rehabilitate the Illinois International Port Calumet River Bridges.

The grant was awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's new Bridge Investment Program, which was created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will fund the major rehabilitation of four bascule bridges over the Calumet River that are vital to the local community, region, and nation.

This funding will support the rehabilitation of four historic bridges: the 92nd Street/Ewing Avenue Bridge, 95th Street Bridge, 100th Street Bridge, and 106th Street Bridge. These bridges are critical components of the Illinois International Port, which is an international hub, and the Illinois Waterway, allowing freight access via the waterways between Lake Michigan and the Gulf of Mexico. The bridges also function as

an interconnected network, providing access to crucial industries and local jobs, and economic stability in the underserved South Chicago and Calumet areas.

Each bridge lifts an average of 5,000 times per year, providing continuous and safe access for marine traffic to and from the Port and surrounding industrial uses. Their rehabilitation is critical to maintaining the industrial road and water traffic supporting our nation's economy. The bridges carry a combined average of over 40,000 vehicles per day, 3,000 of which are trucks. Freight access along the Illinois Waterway also provides a vital connection to the Port and local industries, supporting economic strength.



Senators Duckworth and Durbin Announce \$114 million for Metra Improvements

U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) today announced that the federal government is awarding a \$117 million grant through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) they supported to Metra for improvements to the Union Pacific-North line. This funding is expected to be used to replace four miles of track structure, nearly two miles of retaining walls and 11 bridges that will each have a walkway as well as outside beams to reduce damage from potential truck strikes, along with other pedestrian and traffic improvements.

Meet Illinois' New Congressional Members

With Congress finally electing Speaker Kevin McCarthy on the 15th ballot near midnight on Friday, Illinois' four new members of Congress were officially sworn-in shortly after 1am Saturday morning. Meet the new members of Illinois' Congressional delegation.



Jonathan Jackson-District 1

Jonathan is the third of five children born to the civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. and social justice advocate Jacqueline Lavina Jackson. Jonathan graduated from Whitney Young High School and followed in his father's and mother's footsteps to North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University, where he majored in business. Jonathan earned a master's degree in business administration from the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University.

Jonathan worked as an analyst in a successful bank and on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade, then in win real estate development before launching several businesses

in telecom, breweries, and construction industries. Jonathan also teaches business at the collegiate level.



Delia Ramirez-District 3

The daughter of working-class Guatemalan immigrants, Delia Ramirez was born in the Belmont Cragin community in Chicago. Her family moved to Humboldt Park at the age of one, when her parents found a subsidized apartment above a church that they could finally afford.

For 18 years she worked as a non-profit leader at the Center for Changing Lives, Common Cause and Community Renewal Society, and board chair for both the Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA) and Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA), fighting for affordable housing, quality education and campaign finance reform.

In 2018, her community drafted Delia to run for State Representative of the 4th House District of Illinois. In the Illinois General Assembly, she successfully passed legislation expanding Medicaid coverage to IL senior citizens regardless of immigration status, securing over 450 million to build affordable housing, protecting abortion rights, and creating an elected school board in the City of Chicago. She co-founded the Illinois House Progressive Caucus and served as Assistant Majority Leader.

Delia is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and lives in Chicago with her husband Boris and their golden retrievers Lola and Milo.



Nikki Budzinski-District 13

Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski, born in Peoria and a resident of Springfield, is a native of Illinois.

Most recently, Nikki worked in Governor Pritzker's administration and helped lead the effort for passage of the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. Budzinski then worked in the Biden-Harris Administration where she helped implement the American Rescue Plan and establish the Made in America Office to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

Nikki graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – a school she's now honored to represent.

Erik Sorenson-District 17

Born and raised in Rockford, after attending Northern Illinois University, Eric sought his career as a meteorologist. Starting out at stations in Texas and Rockford, he finally worked his way back home to deliver news in the Quad Cities.

Eric started Project Tornado, an initiative that brings meteorologists into schools to help kids feel safer during severe weather, educating 50,000 students.



State Update

The legislature returned this week for a busy Lame Duck Session that began Wednesday evening and went late into the night on Thursday. Both chambers returned this morning. The Senate is expected to leave early today and return Sunday. The House is scheduled to return on Tuesday. The new General Assembly will be sworn in Wednesday, January 11.

Both chambers are heavily focused on an assault weapons ban and legislation concerning abortion and transgender protections. Infrastructure-related legislation is not expected to come up.

The House did take action on legislation to increase the pay of the state's constitutional officers, representative, senators and Department Secretaries. ACEC Illinois has strongly advocated for competitive pay for the IDOT Secretary and IDOT staff and we were pleased to see the House take action on this measure. The Senate will have to approve and the Governor would have to sign before noon on Monday, January 9th.

The Governor and other statewide candidates will be sworn in on Monday, January 9, in Springfield. Gov. Pritzker will also be holding his inaugural celebration that evening at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

Federal Update

The new Congress was sworn in this week following the election of Kevin McCarthy to be the Speaker of the House late Friday night. The House is expected to vote on a new rules package on Monday that could have a significant impact on operations, especially process and procedures to keep government funded and operating.

IDOT Rebuild Illinois Update

IDOT announced that as of Sept. 30, Rebuild Illinois has made \$9.6 billion in improvements statewide on 4,546 miles of highway, 422 bridges, and 645 additional safety improvements, ranging from routine maintenance projects to extensive interstate and bridge reconstructions.

The past year marked the completion of the third full year of Gov. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois plan, the historic, bipartisan capital program that is investing \$44.8 billion into the state's infrastructure over six years, with \$33.2 billion identified for transportation. Read more about ongoing projects [here](#).

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



MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Wight & Company (Wight) has been in the engineering industry for more than 83 years. Our Transportation and Infrastructure group offers preliminary engineering, design, and construction management services, including NEPA Planning (EA/EIS) and Water Resources Management. As a fully integrated firm, our legacy of innovating ideas, technologies, and responsible solutions ahead of their time inspires a future-forward approach to deliver excellence and make a positive impact within our communities.

What projects are you currently working on?

We currently provide Program Management and Construction Engineering Services for the City of Chicago's (CDOT) Arterial Street Resurfacing and ADA Program, Various Phase I/II Engineering Services for IDOT District 3, and Phase II Engineering Services for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of IL 97 and IL 123 for IDOT District 6. Wight began work on the CTA Red Line Extension project over a decade ago and recently conducted NEPA analysis and documentation for the RLE, for which our team led the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the design changes and was responsible for producing technical memoranda for the Final EIS. This work continues with current NEPA services in progress for the City of Chicago, CTA, Metra, and NICTD. We are also providing architectural design for the renovation of the Metra Millennium Station and serving as the team lead for the new Riverwalk Confluence design, the last phase of the Chicago Riverwalk.

What project are you most proud of?

The I-294 / I-57 interchange, which connects two interstates, changes the course of regional mobility. For decades, I-294 and I-57 crossed each other in the Chicago Southland but did not connect. Limited access to some communities stalled economic growth by making it more difficult and time-consuming for commercial vehicles to transport materials and products. The access provided by the new interchange will not only improve the flow of goods but will also serve as a catalyst for job creation and economic development throughout the region.

A particular point of pride for this project was the successful coordination between the Tollway, IDOT, Wight, and other state and local agencies. In support of sustainable practices, the Tollway and Wight partnered to develop electronic construction innovations, including a mobile project inspection system enabling the digital capture and collection of all relevant data. Wight also explored how a 3D model can be used during construction to verify as-built conditions and identify discrepancies prior to construction. These tools allowed for more efficient collaboration between all parties, greatly contributing to the successful completion of the project.

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

As a member of ACEC-IL, Wight can amplify its voice by joining with other firms to advocate for our industry. The available resources not only help our firm stay current on policies and issues, but they also provide access to decision makers and thought leaders at the federal, state, and local levels. The networking opportunities have helped us foster mentor-protégé relationships that expand our capabilities and promote growth for our DBE partners. The strength of these relationships is significant when project delivery comes into play.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC-IL provides firms of any scope or size an opportunity to get involved through educational resources, training programs, and leadership opportunities. Any firm looking to engage with the industry, build relationships, and grow their business will benefit from becoming a member.

UPCOMING EVENTS

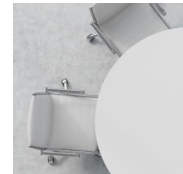
SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Virtual: Remote Leadership

January 12, 2023 | 11a.m.-12p.m.

Presenter: Jeff Gross of Gro-Nova

ACEC Illinois Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$150

Register [Here](#)



2023 Legislative Preview with Senator Ram Villivalam and Senator Don DeWitte

January 13, 2023 | 11:30a.m.-1:30p.m.

Maggiano's Little Italy Oak Brook

240 Oakbrook Ctr.

Oak Brook, IL 60523

Register [Here](#)

Webinar: Mindfulness in Consulting Part II

January 18, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Hick Halan of HLR



Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members



Regional Luncheon: Metra Update with Janice Thomas

January 26, 2023 | 11:30a.m.-1:30p.m.

Prime & Previsions
222 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60601
Register [Here](#)



AASHTOWare Bridge Rating Software Training

February 7, 2023 | 8a.m. to February 8, 2023 | 5:00p.m.

Only 30 seats available!

Register today to join ACEC Illinois and ProMiles Software Development Corporation for a full two-day training course. 16 PDH's once course is completed

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Lifelong Learning: how to engage, teach & be taught

February 15, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Eamon Homedi of Atlas Engineering

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members

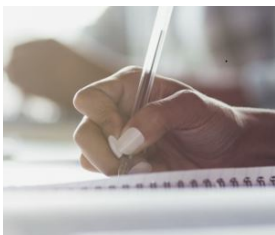


2023 Engineering Excellence Awards - Summer Soiree

February 16, 2023 | 6p.m. - 11p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago
9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, IL 60018

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Designing to Standards - Where do they Come From

March 15, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Josh Starzyk of Gannett Fleming

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members



Topgolf Networking Event
Hosted by: Emerging Professionals Committee
 April 11, 2023 | 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

Location: Topgolf Naperville
 3211 Odyssey Court
 Naperville, IL 60563



Webinar: An Introduction to Project Management in Consulting

April 12, 2023 | 12p.m.


Host: Mohamad Alsharbini of Benesch

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members

VIRTUAL: BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

PRESENTER:




Carlos A. Feliciano, P.E.
 In-House Studies Unit Head / ADA & Bicycle Coordinator

This presentation includes a summary of IDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations policy. The training will go into detail on policies, warrants, design considerations and proper documentation practices for inclusion of active transportation facilities in State led roadway improvements in compliance with IDOT's Complete Streets policy.


To request a recording of:

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$45.
3. Then, you will be emailed a video recording and PDH.

HOSTED BY:



PRESENTED BY:



Illinois Department of Transportation

RECORDING OF: ENGINEERING WITH LAND ACQUISITION IN MIND

About:

This virtual seminar not a webinar to teach someone how to do land acquisition, but rather a tool for engineers that might have land acquisition on their projects.

PRESENTERS:

Jeni Lyon, President/CEO, HLR Inc.
 Carlos Feliciano, IDOT Programming, In-House Studies Unit Head
 Kari Smith, IDOT Design, Economic Analysis Coordinator
 Brian Bottomley, Owner/Senior Engineering, Way Maker Transportation, Planning and Engineering
 Chris Maloney, IDOT Land Aquisition, Area Relocation and Property Management Supervisor
 Reid Magner, Vice President, Bravo Company Engineer

Agenda:

Guidelines
 Overview of Process
 Acquisition Timeline
 Phase 1 - ROW Determination & Consideration
 Phase II - Land Acquisition Process
 Examples

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$150.
3. Be emailed a 3 hour video and PDH's



Illinois Department of Transportation



ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES of Illinois

RECORDING OF: EMPLOYEE RETENTION - STAY INTERVIEWS

GREAT RESIGNATION TO THE GREAT RETENTION

INTERACTIVE - INFORMATIVE - INSPIRING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

Stay Interview - vs - Exit Interview
The Power of a Stay Interview
How to do a Stay Interview
What to Ask
Dry Run

HOSTED BY:

ACEC
Illinois

PRESENTER:



JEFF GROSS
FOUNDER, CHIEF EMPOWERMENT OFFICER
AND LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT



TO REQUEST A RECORDING OF:

- EMAIL BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG
- BE EMAILED AN INVOICE FOR \$75.
- THEN, YOU WILL BE EMAILED A VIDEO RECORDING AND PDH

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER



VIPOWER Services
1433 Jamie Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298
(314) 616-2860
www.vipowerserv.com

NEW MEMBER



QRSE, LLC
1619 S. Greenwood Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(773) 715-0056
www.qr-se.com



PDF Engineering
2570 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60026
(312) 493-4065



APEX Consulting Engineers, LLC
205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 810
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 977-0660
www.apexconsults.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Michael G. Wolf
named
Vice President
Farnsworth Group,
Inc. in Bloomington



Farnsworth Group, Inc. announced the appointment of Michael G. Wolf, PE, to Vice President for the national engineering, architecture, and survey firm based in Bloomington, IL.

[Article Here](#)



Build momentum.

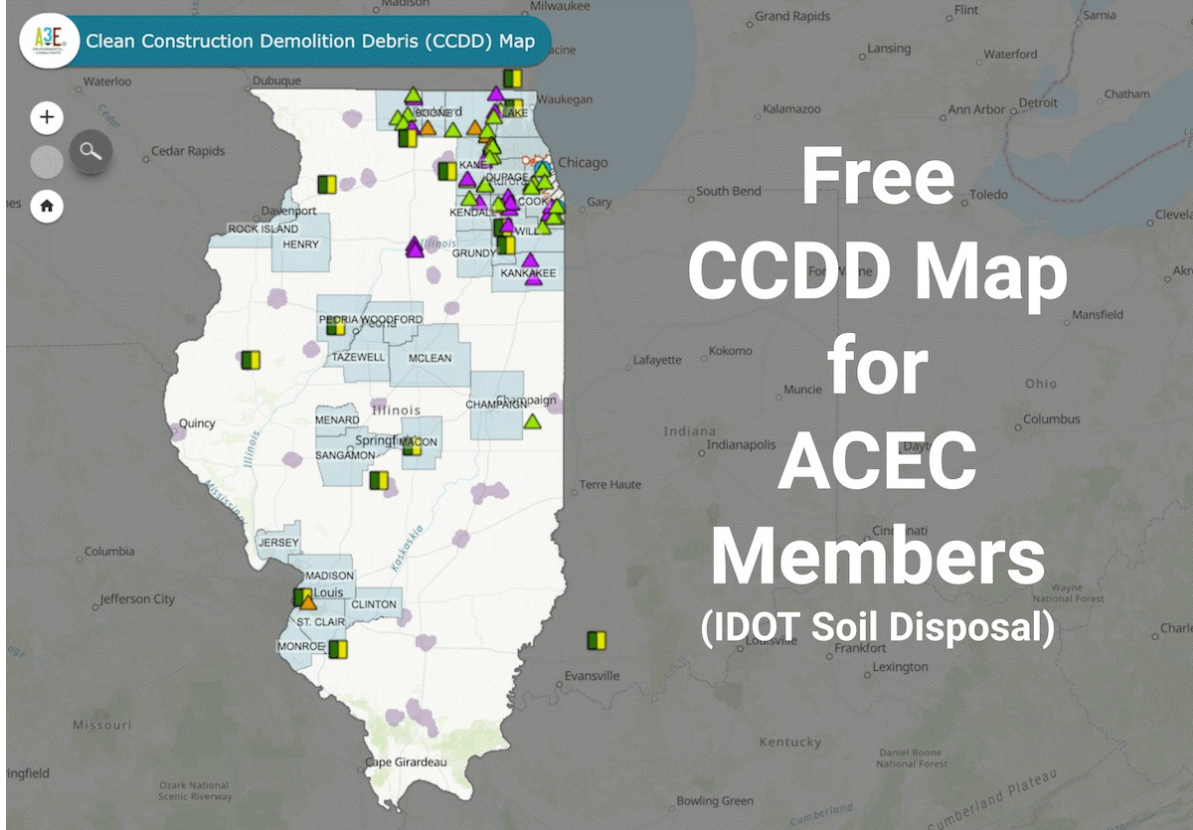
Talk to us about
protecting all
you've built.

See what we offer in full:
holmesmurphy.com
(800) 247.7756



CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

**Free CCDD Resource for Illinois Civil
Engineers**



Every civil engineer at some time or another needs to move soil offsite. The question is always where to move it and what does it cost. One of our specialties at A3 Environmental Consultants is performing soil management projects. You may, however, want to do them yourself. In the spirit of collaboration, I give you our ArcGIS map which we created to find the closest CCDD facilities. It also has subtitle D facilities, the MAC map and truck routes. As if that wasn't enough, it has the name of the environmental contact, phone number and email. You can find all this information by clicking [here](#).

Introduction to the ACEC Legal Council Forum



ENGINEERING INFLUENCE

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

[LISTEN HERE](#)

FALL 2022

ENGINEERING INC.

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Nurturing a New Generation of Leaders

Member Organizations help promising talent navigate ladders to leadership

ACEC's DEI&B Committee

Behind the Scenes of EEA Judging

MO Profile: ACEC/Iowa

HNTB Atlanta Supports Schools

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Photo Gallery



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Find out why ACEC Retirement Trust gets a 100% satisfaction rating. It's an exclusive 401(k) program for ACEC members



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Build a bright financial
future for your team

FURRY FRIENDS

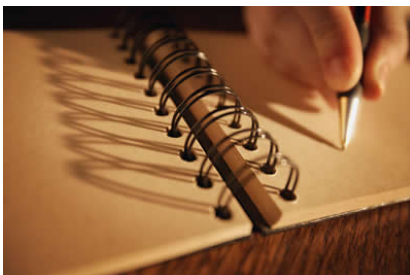
#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS



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

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