



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

Good morning!

The final 3 weeks of the 101st Illinois General Assembly has arrived! There are several theories, rumors and chit-chat about the various funding proposals. It is important to remember that this is normal! While time is running down, there is plenty of time remaining for a full, sustainable funding plan.

While there are two plans that have been introduced, with voting action already taken place, TFIC has been in discussion with both the House and Senate and in both caucuses regarding our priorities.

The good news is that talks continue, centered on full, sustainable funding for Transportation, including transit - which would be in the neighborhood north of \$30 billion (***or an additional \$3B per year.***). Having a dedicated user-fee based revenue source is making this a bit easier than its counterpart - vertical construction which does not have a dedicated revenue source. The target dollar amount for vertical remains at \$20 billion. This could prove very difficult in achieving this goal by May 31st - with \$10 billion being a little easier target.

Update from ACEC National Meetings in Washington DC

Once again, ACEC-Illinois brought in more members attending the Spring conference in that any other state. We met with various members of congress, including: Cheris Bustos; Chuy Garcia; Dan Lipinski; Raja Krisnamoorthi; Darin LaHood; Rodney Davis; Mike Bost; Lauren Underwood; Bill Foster and a great meeting with Senator Tammy Duckworth.

We also met in a joint meeting with the top senior policy advisors of Senators Durbin (Joe Bushong) and Duckworth (Mark Copeland) and asked that they speak with Governor Pritzker and Senate President John Cullerton - asking that they both engage and pass our TFIC sustainable funding proposal this session.

Our meetings were very successful with all members and staff committing to providing the proper funding to maintain and increase our federal funding match.

Bender Discusses New DC Role in ACEC Podcast

While in DC, I had a chance to tape an episode with ACEC National Director of Strategic Communications, Jeff Urbanchuk. [ACEC Podcast Interview](#)

Thanks again all -- I will be providing instant updates as news develops.

Dave Bender
ACEC-Illinois