



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2020 July NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

As ACEC Illinois inaugurated Orhan Ilgaz Ulger as its 58th Board Chair, a special thanks to #57—Bruce Schopp, for all his hard-work and dedication to ACEC during this previous year. A special thanks also to outgoing Board Members, John O'Neill, John Nelson and Bret Paden for all their work and effort on behalf of strengthening and improving ACEC Illinois. Finally, a welcome to our new board members—Greg Cook, Harvind Singh and Mark Harms and congratulation on their elections.

State Infrastructure Funding Update

As Illinois operates under the COVID Phase 4 Guidelines, the state is beginning to see trendline improvement for Motor Fuel Tax. While May saw a 32% decline in anticipated MFT revenue, June improved to just a 22% decline—and first week numbers in July indicate the improvement is continuing. IDOT's MYP is expected to be released soon and they have not indicated there will be changes at this point to address any MFT shortfall concerns. In conversations with the Acting Secretary Osman, he has outlined his strong support to ensure engineering remains on-track to keep the Rebuild Illinois program on-schedule.

Federal Infrastructure Funding Update

The House approved—along party lines—the ***INVEST in America Act***, the five-year, \$494 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill crafted by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. That bill includes

- \$311 billion for federal highway programs
- \$105 billion for transit programs
- \$60 billion for passenger rail

The bill extends current programs through FY'21 and adds \$14.7 billion for highways and \$6.75 billion for transit, and it waives the non-federal match for FY 2021. New programs would go into effect in FY 2022.

As mentioned above, the bill was approved on a party-line vote and the Senate President along with the White House have already indicated their opposition to the measure.

ACEC IL Helps Defeat Proposal To Limit Construction Inspection Services To Only Public Employees
During the debate on the Federal Infrastructure bill, California Congressman Garamendi introduced an amendment that would have required all Construction Inspection services to be completed by public employees. I reached out to Illinois T&I Committee members Cong. Lipinski and Cong. Garcia to outline our opposition to that amendment and the impact it would have on our industry. Both Cong. Lipinski and Cong. Garcia understood the impact it would have and worked to ensure the language was not adopted. I also briefed IDOT on this measure and they joined via AASHTO in opposing the amendment.

Federal COVID Relief

The Senate reconvenes on July 18th and they are expected to take up a new round of COVID Relief measures that are likely to include additional relief to state and local governments and may also include relief to State DOTs and transit agencies. The House passed a \$3 trillion relief package in June that included \$15 billion for State DOTs, \$15.75 billion for mass transit and over \$800 billion in relief for state, county and local governments.

PPP Concerns

The impact PPP may have on engineering firms who are utilizing the program remains unclear. I have spoken with many in our Congressional delegation about the ambiguity of the program as well as the “after the fact” guidance and rules that have been issued by agencies that seem inconsistent with the goal of the PPP program. Advocates like Cong. Lipinski-**who has written Treasury, SBA and Dept. of Defense on our behalf**, along with Cong. Rodney Davis and Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi continue to work to get clarity as well as reasonable solution. We will remain vigilant on this issue and keep you updated.



To best assist your firm and employees, we have created an **ACEC Illinois “Returning To The Workplace”**

document that encapsulates this guidance and best practices.

In addition, on our **website** you can find additional resources, including **information posters and communication tools** along with **CDC** and **State of Illinois guidance**. These resources will be continually updated to reflect new guidance and best practices.



Hello Summer

2020 ACEC/PAC Sweepstakes

\$50/ticket

Drawing to be held on
Monday, July 27, 2020!



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-IL
info@acecil.org
5221 S. 6th Street Road
Suite 120
Springfield, IL 62703

[Contribute HERE](#)

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

save the date

UPCOMING EVENTS



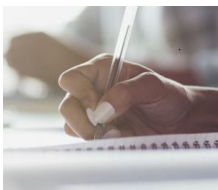
ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Wednesday, July 15th

10:00-11:00am

Webinar: **County Engineers Panel Discussion**

Register: [HERE](#)

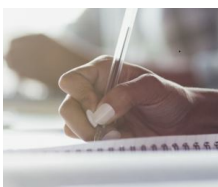


Wednesday, July 29th

10:00-11:00am

Webinar: **IDOT Region 3 and Region 4 Update**

Register: [HERE](#)



Virtual: IDOT Bridge Seminar

Registration: Coming Soon!

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

September 29 & 30

November 1, 5, 7, 13 & 15

2021 Leadership Series is Coming!!

- January 2021 - June 2021
- One Session a Month
- PDH's
- Limited Availability

More information coming soon!

ACEC Illinois Launches #ACECILWORKING:

ACEC IL members are working harder than ever now, just in some very different environments. Design work is being done at the kitchen table, plans are being

reviewed on the deck and zooms are regularly interrupted by requests for juice and goldfish crackers by younger “co-workers”.

We want to highlight how ACEC Illinois members are adapting to and overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 and still getting this essential work done. So, send us your pictures and your stories at info@acecil.org so we can highlight your work on our social networks.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

Please submit 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
