



2020 October NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

Executive and Policy Update

I want to say thank you to everyone who attended and/or participated in our Virtual Fall Conference. It was a record attendance for ACEC Illinois and it really demonstrated to all the policymakers who attended our event, including Senator Durbin, Cong. Kinzinger and Senators Villivalam and DeWitte, that ACEC IL members are engaged and active.

Federal Update

FAST Act

The House of Representatives and Senate have approved a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government at current levels through December 11. Included in that CR is legislation to extend surface transportation programs under the FAST Act for one year, which ACEC and 87 other industry stakeholders called for in a September 9 letter. We expect the CR to be approved and signed by the President.

The one-year extension gives state DOTs the certainty they need to plan and build projects through the 2021 construction season. The bill retains current funding levels and transfers \$13.6 billion to the Highway Trust Fund to maintain solvency through Fiscal Year 2021. It also transfers \$14 billion into the Airport & Airways Trust Fund to support the Airport Improvement Program.

ASCE Issues Report Outlining “Investment Gap” Infrastructure

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently released a **12-page report** that indicates the “cumulative investment gap” between what the United States currently spends on surface transportation infrastructure versus what it needs to spend to decrease traffic congestion and maintain its assets in a state of good repair is approximately \$5 trillion in 2019 dollars.

The ASCE said in a **statement** that its report – entitled Failure to Act: The Implications of Investment Trends in our Surface Transportation Infrastructure – focuses on the

impact of transportation deficiencies on U.S. economic performance. It also quantifies the “existing gap” between what the nation currently spends on bridges, roads, and transit systems versus what’s needed to get the systems into a “state of good repair.”

ACEC IL MEMBER GERI BOYER TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing to discuss the impacts of – and potential improvements to – the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and Kaskaskia Engineering Group President Geri Boyer provided testimony on how to support, strengthen and enhance the US DOT’s DBE program. [Click here to view her testimony.](#)

COVID Relief

House Democrats have introduced a new COVID Relief bill that includes \$436 billion for state, local and tribal governments. The White House and House Democrats are currently negotiating on the bill.

State Update

Nuclear Power

During our Fall Conference, both Senator Durbin and Congressman Kinzinger expressed concern over Exelon’s announcement that they intend to close their Byron and Dresden nuclear plants next year. ACEC IL is monitoring the situation and has received briefings on the issue from legislators and the Governor’s Office.

Electronic Signatures

Senate Transportation Chairman Ram Villivalam has asked ACEC IL to begin working the Senate legislative staff to draft legislation that would codify agency’s ability to accept electronic signatures in lieu of “wet signatures” for a variety of documents, including contracts and invoices. We hope to have the legislation prepared in advance of this Fall’s Veto Session.

IDOT Compensation

Following ACEC IL testimony at the August Senate Transportation Hearing on the need for enhanced compensation for IDOT employees, we have had substantive follow-up conversations with both the Governor’s Office and Senate Leadership. The issue also came up during the Legislative Panel discussion during Fall Conference where Senator Don DeWitte, Minority Spokesperson for the Transportation Committee, said they were looking at all options including legislation to ensure IDOT has the flexibility to competitively pay current employees and recruit new ones.

Agency Updates

Funding

September MFT receipts are nearly completely in and it appears they will report that it 94% of expected goal, collecting nearly \$197 million.

Tollway

I met with Tollway Executive Director Jose’ Alvarez, Senators Villivalam and DeWitte and IRTBA President and CEO to discuss a wide range of issues. At the meeting we discussed the benefits of electronic signature to both the agency and industry along with opportunities to further reduce paperwork and streamline processes.

IDOT

New Promotions at IDOT.

Director of Planning and Programming

Ms. Holly (Ostdick) Bieneman will be appointed as the Director of Planning and Programming, for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Ms. Bieneman has over 15 years’ experience conducting planning and programming at the local, regional, and state level. Prior to working at IDOT, Ms. Bieneman worked for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning where she managed numerous transportation programs, coordinated with local jurisdictions to program and accomplish projects, and assisted in development of their first long range transportation plan. Ms. Bieneman also worked for McHenry County coordinating with local jurisdictions in

managing their Surface Transportation Program funds. She has been with the department for over four years working in the Bureau of Planning, where she was named bureau chief in 2017.

Ms. Bieneman has an undergraduate degree from Northern Illinois University in Public Administration and Economics as well as a graduate degree in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University.

IDOT District One Bureau Chief of Construction

Jonathan Schumacher, PE will be the new District One Bureau Chief of Construction, effective September 16, 2020. Schumacher served as the Lake and McHenry County Area Construction Supervisor prior to this promotion.

City of Chicago

The Chicago City Council is planning more hearings this Fall to discuss a City of Chicago capital program.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you to ACEC IL Director of Administration, Sasha Cadigan, who is leaving ACEC IL in a few weeks. I know we all wish her congratulations and good luck on her new opportunity.

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



EEA ANNOUNCEMENT

Engineering Excellence Awards
Call for Entries

[HERE](#)

Due: Thursday, October 29, 2020

Emerging Professional the Year
Call for Entries

[HERE](#)

Due: Thursday, October 29, 2020

**Small Firm of the Year Award
Large Firm of the Year Award**

HERE

Due: Thursday, October 29, 2020

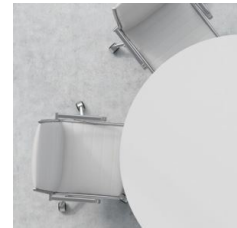
save the date
UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



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BUSINESS



Virtual: IDOT Bridge Seminar
Dates: 10/5, 10/7, 10/13, 10/15
Time 11:00am - 1:00pm
Registration: **HERE**



**Virtual Sexual Harrassment Training:
Respect in the Workplace**
Date:10/14 at 10am
10/16 at 1pm
10/20 at 10am
Cost: \$100
Register **HERE**
*PDH and recording sent after the session



2021 Leadership Series
January 2021 - June 2021
One Session a Month
PDH's
Limited Availability
*more information coming soon!

MEMBER UPDATES:



ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. WELCOMES KRISTEN MEEHAN, P.E.

Kristen M. Meehan, P.E. has joined the firm as a Senior Project Engineer II in the Municipal Group. She is a resident of Chicago, Illinois and holds her Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Marquette University. Meehan holds her Professional Engineer licensure for the States of Illinois and Wisconsin. Kristen will bring her previous experience to work on a variety of water and wastewater related projects for our Clients.

Continue to [Article](#)

Thank you to all of our 2020 Virtual Fall Conference Sponsors!

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES of Illinois

2020 FALL CONFERENCE
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21 - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 - DAILY E-TRAINING

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Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

IEPA Unsewered Communities Construction and Grant Programs

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Director John Kim announced two grant opportunities to assist communities with inadequate or nonexistent wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Illinois EPA is making \$100 million available through Governor Pritzker’s bipartisan Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan over the next five years (\$20M per year) for construction grants for wastewater collection and/or treatment facilities. Illinois EPA is also making \$1 million per year available for each of the next four years for planning grants to assist small and disadvantaged communities in developing a project plan that identifies a solution to wastewater collection and treatment needs. Notices of Funding Opportunities have been posted for both programs.

(continue reading [HERE](#))

ACEC MEMBER DISCOUNTS ON:

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ACEC/PAC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Thank you to all ACEC Illinois members who participated in the PAC Fall Raffle. Your continual partnership is key!

1st Prize: Chris Linneman -EFK Moen \$250 Maui Jim

2nd Prize: Moussa Issa-HBM Engineering Group-\$100 Cooper's Hawk

3rd Prize: Lorenzo Thompson-Thompson Civil, LLC \$50 Amazon



BUILDING FOR SUCCESS

The Illinois Tollway Department of Diversity and Strategic Development cordially invites you to attend

Building for Success Webinar Series 10 Construction Drawing Process Review

Presented by Matthew Cooper, Bruce Washington, and Elmer Rhodes,
Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program Provider, Inner-City
Underwriting Agency

The Illinois Tollway Building for Success Webinar Series highlights key Tollway programs and initiatives. Next up is Construction Drawing Process Review presented by Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program provider, Inner-City Underwriting Agency.

One of the ways the Tollway demonstrates its commitment is by encouraging contractors to connect with its technical assistance providers. The Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program is designed to prepare emerging and established transportation-related construction firms including disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms, service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB) and veteran-owned small businesses (VOSB), as well as small businesses to participate on highway and vertical construction contracts.

Upcoming Building for Success Webinar Series topics include:

- Project management essentials
- Becoming a subcontractor on a Tollway project
- IDOT prequalification for construction
- BidBuy
- Statements of Interest
- DBE Certification Program
- Meet the Tollway departments

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY DIVERSITY WEBINAR SERIES

**Construction Drawing Process Review
Monday, October 5, 2020
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

- Developing a strategy to reduce time

- Deciding if you will bid on the project based on drawing review
- Resources

Click [HERE](#) for more information



Virtual Sexual Harassment Training: Respect in the Workplace

A new law passed in 2019 requires individuals with licenses issued by the Illinois' Department of Professional Regulation (including PE and SE licenses) that require Continuing Education (CE) to renew their license with also 1 hour of CE on the topic of sexual harassment training. This requirement is in effect for all renewals after January 1, 2020.

Every employee renewing a license this year must complete 1 hour of CE on the topic of sexual harassment training.

If you or your employees have not completed this yet, ACEC IL is hosting a seminar that meets the legal requirements and will provide the 1 hour of CE on the topic of sexual harassment training. You can register for that event by [clicking here](#).

The requirement may be included in the number of hours already required—it does not increase the number of hours required to renew a license. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has approved ACEC IL as an approved provider of this continuing education.



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
