



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING



ACEC Illinois Visits with Secretary Buttigieg, Senator Durbin and Cong. Budzinski

ACEC Illinois was invited to attend a “fireside chat” at the U of I Grainger College of Engineering to discuss transportation infrastructure with US DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Senator Dick Durbin and Cong. Nikki Budzinski. ACEC IL Board Chair Linda Moen, Past Chair PJ Fitzpatrick, National Director Steve Donahue and Board Members Jerry Payonk and Jeff Ball attended the

event. You can watch the entire [discussion here](#).

Secretary Buttigieg visited Illinois to announce the award of more than \$22 million in federal infrastructure money to fund a new underpass in Savoy and also \$28 million for Bi-State Development, which operates the MetroLink in the Metro East area.



Chicago Hub Improvement Program Launched

Illinois leaders on Thursday applied for nearly \$900 million in federal funding for a plan that would speed up rail service to and from Union Station and even create a direct connection between O’Hare Airport and McCormick Place.

With about \$218 million set to come from local governments and private investors to launch the start of the Chicago Hub

Improvement Program (CHIP), a project aimed at making it easier for trains from southern routes to reach Union Station, \$873 million in federal assistance is still needed in order for the plan to leave the station.

If approved, efforts to modernize Union Station and the surrounding tracks would cut travel times, increase capacity, improve platforms, remove a bottleneck between Chicago and Detroit and make possible a one-seat ride from O’Hare Airport to McCormick Place, officials said.

Senator Villivalam, Cong. Garcia Join ACEC IL Members

Senate Transportation Chairman **Ram Villivalam** and Cong. **Chuy Garcia** joined nearly 100 ACEC IL members for a packed reception to support these key industry champions. Both Senator Villivalam and Cong. Garcia provided members with legislative updates and look aheads into the key issues advancing in both Springfield and Washington, DC.



Governor Signs ACEC Illinois Legislation Expanding QBS to Land Acquisition

Governor Pritzker signed into law legislation, supported by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, that restores the best practice of requiring IDOT to use Qualifications-Based Selection for land acquisition services to deliver the best value to agency and taxpayers. By utilizing Qualifications Based Selection for land acquisition services, IDOT will have the most skilled and qualified firms working on this critical element of project delivery. The change will allow for experienced firms working with both IDOT and landowners to have a fully operational scope and budget that will help expedite the negotiation process with landowners.

The legislation was introduced by Sen. Ram Villivalam and co-sponsored by Sen. Donald DeWitte in the Senate and by Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid and Rep. Brad Stephens in the House.

“The legislature is always reviewing processes and procedures to ensure that we are maximizing efficiency and transparency and I’m glad to say this legislation achieves both,” said **Sen. Ram Villivalam**. “The utilization of Qualifications Based Selection for land acquisition services will help improve the efficiency, transparency and pace of infrastructural development across the state by IDOT and ultimately help deliver the promise of ReBuild Illinois.”

“Roads and bridges are not partisan and ensuring the delivery of the ReBuild Illinois program in an efficient and transparent manner is a bipartisan effort,” said **Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid**.

“Qualifications based selection has been proven to provide the best value to both the agency and the taxpayer and its utilization for land acquisition services will ensure the most qualified firms will be working with IDOT to deliver the state’s ReBuild Illinois infrastructure program.”

Additional Bill Signings

Governor Pritzker signed the law requiring the Illinois Department of Transportation to begin the pre-qualification process for public-private agreements related to a south-suburban airport. If private sector proposals come through and the project moves forward, the cargo airport will be built near Peotone. [HB 2531](#) passed the legislature in May and was signed Friday, July 28th. This is the latest effort in then decades long discussion on development of a third airport in the Chicago area.

Governor Pritzker signed into law legislation creating the Central Illinois Regional Airport Authority as a new governing authority. In addition to creating this new airport authority, the legislation also expands its taxing authority to all of McClean County rather than just Bloomington/Normal. More on the Central Illinois Regional Airport Authority legislation can be found [here](#).

The Governor also signed a transit omnibus bill that passed the legislature this spring. HB 1342 included provisions to expand reduced-fare services, require transit agencies to purchase emissions-free busses and provide free transit to victims of domestic violence. You can read more about this legislation [here](#).

New Davis Bacon Rules for Survey Technicians

On Wednesday, the United States Department of Labor dropped 812 pages of new Davis Bacon rules that will have significant effects on survey work on covered federal projects. ACEC Illinois' Attorney, Andy Martone, is currently reviewing the documents and is prepping a briefing and guidance for members. ACEC National Counsel is also reviewing the rules. Stay tuned for more details and analysis. To view the full order, [click here](#).

ACEC Illinois Leadership Attends Midwest Meeting

ACEC Illinois Board Chair Linda Moen, National Director Steve Donahue and VP of Events and Marketing Bethany Rademaker attended the annual ACEC Illinois Midwest meeting where they met with ACEC leaders from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa.

Biagi Departs from Chicago Department of Transportation

Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner Gia Biagi is stepping down this month. Biagi is leaving voluntarily to take a position with a private-sector firm. Commissioner Biagi and ACEC Illinois had a strong relationship and we wish her the best.

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

"Engineering Works" Podcast

Today we talk to PJ Fitzpatrick, past board chair of ACEC Illinois, about the recent Capitol Hill visits, the National Conference, the National EEA Awards Gala, and what is getting him excited about the future of the industry.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



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American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois
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Website: www.acecil.org



UPCOMING EVENTS...

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of Illinois

VISIT: acecil.org/events

REGIONAL LUNCHEON: COUNTY ENGINEERS

Tuesday, August 15 11:30am - 1:30pm

Hosted by:
ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

Join us for an ACEC Illinois Regional Luncheon.
This luncheon will host a panel discussion with County Engineers.

Panel:

- Chris Snyder, DuPage County
- Carl Schoedel, Kane County
- Jeff Ronaldson, Will County
- Shane Schneider, Lake County
- Jennifer (Sis) Killen, Cook County
- Joe Korpalski, McHenry County

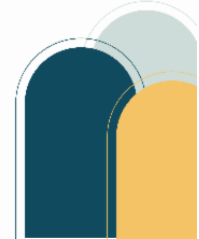
REGISTRATION FEES:

Member \$85
Non-Member \$160

SPONSORSHIP:

Silver: \$250
1 Ticket
VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media

Gold: \$500
2 Tickets
2 VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media



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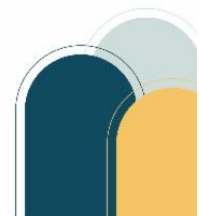
LEGAL UPDATE ON M/WBE AND DBE PROGRAMS

Wednesday, August 23 11:00am - Noon

Join ACEC Illinois for a webinar reviewing Legal Updates on M/WBE and DBE Programs.
Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members.

Presented by:
**CH COLETTE
HOLT
& ASSOCIATES**

Hosted by:
ACEC
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of Illinois



[REGISTER HERE](#)

BRINGING CHANGE TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WITH DIGITAL DELIVERY

Friday, August 25, 2023
10:30am - Noon

During this collaborative webinar, attendees will be provided an opportunity to reflect on the current status of digital delivery in the industry from the perspectives of IDOT, Tollway, Designers and Contractors. Collectively understanding the downstream benefits from various perspectives and the metaphorical "road blocks" industry members face can help shape the roadmap to effectively implementing digital delivery in Illinois. This virtual lunch n learn is intended to serve as an opportunity for industry members to hear and share thoughts, intentions, desires, and concerns regarding digital delivery.

AGENDA

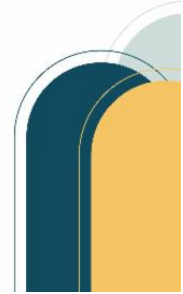
10:30AM-10:40AM IDOT Perspective
Dan Mlacnik

10:40AM-10:50AM Tollway Perspective
Nick Lago

10:50AM-11:05AM Designer Perspective
Dan Prokop

11:05AM-11:35AM Contractor Perspective
Tim Seiwert

11:35AM-12:00PM Open Q&A



[REGISTER HERE](#)

save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2023

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of Illinois

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2024



2024
ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

save the date

Black Tie Gala

MISSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS FROM CLASSES YOU ALREADY TOOK?

- EMAIL [BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)
- INCLUDE: CLASS NAME, DATE OF CLASS, ATTENDEE EMAIL ADDRESS

bethany@acecil.org

REMINDER

ACEC IL dues invoices have been sent out. If you need a new copy or would like to pay via credit card, please contact Emily Martinez at emily@acecil.org

emily@acecil.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](#)

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

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Paul Kovacs, PE
Principal
Bowman Consulting



How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- I have been in the Engineering industry for approximately 40 years. I began my career working at Sargent & Lundy, BASCOR, Inc. and TYLin International before

joining the IL Tollway as a Senior Project Engineer in 1999. After retiring from the IL Tollway in 2021, serving my last 13 years as the Chief Engineering Officer, I returned to the consultant ranks, and am currently a principal at Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd.

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

- Recently, I have served or assisted various ACEC Committees and groups including participation on the IDOT Liaison committee, and involved in the Design Build, Lump Sum Contracting and PSB/PTB Improvement initiatives. As the Tollway's Chief Engineering Officer, I was fortunate to interact directly with many ACEC firms and participated in the Tollway Liaison Committee. I was also honored to serve for several years as an ACEC judge for project awards at both the State and National levels, including serving as the chief judge for the National Awards committee.

What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?

- ACEC offers us the opportunity to be a combined force and present a unified voice to promote industry best practices such as qualification-based selections, fair contracting opportunities and compensation methods, work delivery improvements and advocate for engineers and engineering consulting firms throughout the country.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- I most enjoy spending time with my family, being a grandfather (nagypapa or nudgy for short, its Hungarian) and doing triathlons and cycling.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I covered most of my fun facts in question 4 but will also share that I was born on a Thursday and enjoy celebrating my actual "birthday" every week.

COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT

Raymond Kumapley
Senior Vice President
SE3, LLC



How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

- Over 20 years

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

- Chair of the D/W/MBE committee, and member of the Illinois Tollway Liaison, Cook County DOTH Liaison, Risk Management, Human Resources, Diversity, Equity

& Inclusion committees

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

- The D/W/MBE committee has about 70 members from minority, women, and veteran owned firms, traditional firms and industry affiliate vendors. This committee coordinates with other ACEC-IL agency liaison committees to address issues that impact our D/W/MBE firms, particularly efforts to enhance the opportunities for member firms. The committee generally meets quarterly.

What's the number one reason people should join your committee?

- To identify issues that may be challenges for your firm, advocate for D/W/MBE firm issues, and to network with peers who may be facing similar challenges and successes as you.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- Cooking, cycling and dancing. Also, my latest hobby is working on my family ancestry.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I started working on my family ancestry about a year ago and the family tree has grown to over 1,200 members so far. It's been an exciting journey communicating with newly discovered relatives.
-

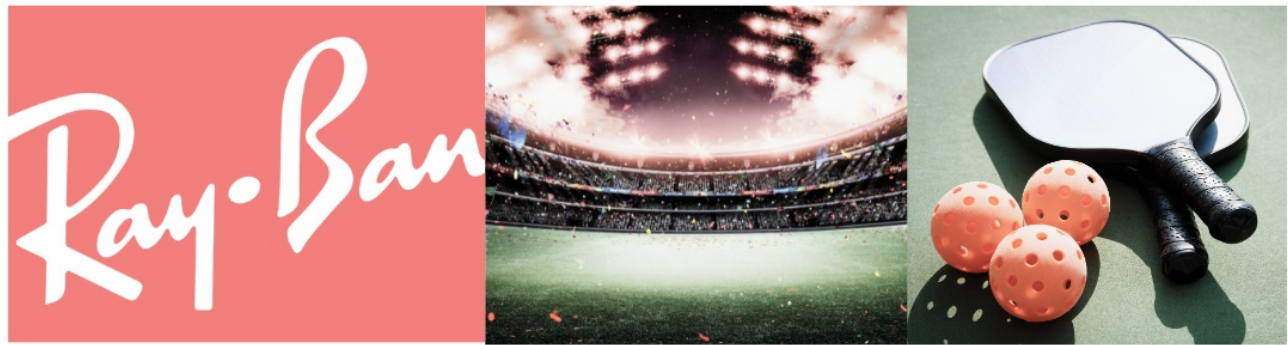
SUMMER PAC Raffle

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POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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midnight August 15, 2023



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VALUE: UP TO \$200

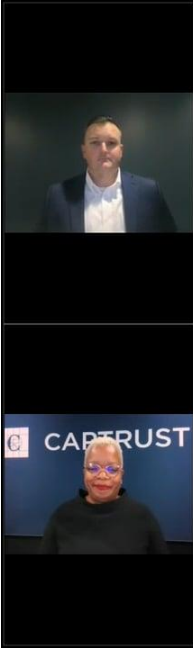
PICKLEBALL SET

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

**ACEC RT + CAPTRUST Webinar:
What's Coming Out of Your Paycheck**



AXION UNIVERSITY

LONG TERM DISABILITY

AUGUST 16, 2023 | 1:30 PM

Presented by:



Join us for Axion University Course Three informative webinar on the basics of Long-Term Disability (LTD) and learn how to safeguard your financial well-being in the face of unexpected health challenges. This webinar is designed to provide essential information about LTD insurance, eligibility criteria, benefits, and the claims process.

- Introduction to Long-Term Disability
- Eligibility and Coverage - Benefits and Compensation
- Filing a Claim and the Claims Process
- Appeals and Legal Consideration
-

[Course 1 | Navigating Absence Management](#) *Previously Recorded*

[Course 2 | Short Term Disability](#) *Previously Recorded*

[Course 3 | Long Term Disability](#) *Live Event August 16*

NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES JOIN ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC MEET THE NEW HIRES: COWLEY AND HOUGHTON



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), a leading civil engineering firm, is proud to announce the hiring of two new full-time civil engineering graduates to our team.

Sarah Cowley and James Houghton have excelled in both their education and experience.

Cowley has graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering and will be working in the Environmental Group under Steve Dennison's direction.

Houghton earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His primary area of study was transportation engineering, while his additional areas of study were management and construction engineering. James will be directed by Joe Cwynar, PE to work in the Transportation Group.

"We are thrilled to welcome Sarah and James to our team," said Brad Sanderson, Chief Operating Officer / President of EEI. "Their education and experience will be invaluable to our firm as we continue to grow and take on new projects. We are confident that they will make significant contributions to our team and help us achieve our goals. We look forward to seeing the impact they will make on our projects and our clients."

For additional information about EEI Engineering [Here](#)

AI Answers the Question We've All been asking!



With the new wave of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology taking the world by storm, the question has been asked on how the use of this technology will impact the profession moving forward. One big question being asked is: "How will AI affect the Standard of Care?" Well, who better to ask about Standard of Care than ChatGPT?

Full Article [Here](#)

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ISSUE TWO • 2023

ENGINEERING INC.

www.acec.org

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Powering the Future

The urgent need
for EV infrastructure

Water Treatment Projects
Make a Splash

Tribal Surveying System
Sets New Standards

MO Profile: ACEC Kansas

C&S Companies
Champions Staff's Causes

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Full Magazine
Here



Student &
Teacher
Resources

When students dream big about their careers, engineering may not be the first thing that pops to mind. But maybe it should be. The fact is, there is unlimited opportunity and variety within the engineering field itself, allowing students to follow their passions, land that dream job and make a difference in the world. And engineers are in demand, providing endless options to build their future.

This initiative was launched to help Illinois students see themselves in the engineering field. It is part of a larger effort by the Illinois Department of Transportation to educate and hire engineers in the face of a national shortage. From introducing individual disciplines, to discussing job satisfaction, opportunities and compensation, this web page is intended as a resource for students and educators to explore all that is possible with a career in engineering.

Engineering may not be the first job students think of, but a career in the field might just become a dream come true.



[HERE](#)

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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

ACEC-Illinois | 5221 S 6th Street Road, Suite 120, Springfield, IL 62703

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