



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2019 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER: THE CONNECTOR



WORDS FROM THE PRES.

ACEC Illinois President & CEO - Kevin Artl

I wanted to provide everyone with a quick update on key news from our clients as well as action before the General Assembly and Congress.

IDOT

The FY20 Highway Improvement Program was released—it provides greater detail than the MYP. To view it, [click here](#)

Consultant Look Ahead:

This is being planned for a date in January, they are still working through what the format will look like.

In terms of FY21, IDOT is looking at \$466m in engineering spend that breaks down like this:

- \$367 million for new starts
- \$79 million for on-going, already advertised projects

Regarding contract approvals, IDOT is tracking at an average of two months—if you are experiencing outliers to this please contact me.

We are continuing discussions with IDOT as it relates to improving the turnaround time on local road agreements. Everyone agrees that it is an area that needs to be addressed.

IDOT is in the process of seeking input on proposed changes to certain pre-qualifications. ACEC IDOT Committee Chair John Clark is working with the ACEC IDOT committee to review and provide feedback.

IDOT Staff Changes:

Georgina Syas is the new IDOT Chief of Staff, former Chief Matt Magalis has taken a new role of Deputy Director of Finance and Administration.

Michael Varlotta will be appointed as the Labor Relations Manager, Office of Finance & Administration, for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

There has been no replacement named for Paul Loete's position, expect that process to take a few more weeks.

Governor's Office

I met with Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell last week to provide an update on ACEC activities and feedback on the MYP. Among the topics we discussed were workforce concerns and he agreed to look at options to help recruit and retain engineers in Illinois.

Congress Takes Action

Congress repealed a \$7.6 billion rescission of federal-aid highway contract authority, a cut originally mandated by the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to occur next year. Had rescission not occurred, Illinois was at risk of losing \$132 million in federal transportation funding.

Capital Development Board

ACEC hosted an informative CDB look ahead that included CDB Executive Director Jim Underwood and his top construction and procurement teams. CDB's capital budget is close to \$10 billion over the next 6 years. However, a significant portion of that is reliant on getting the Chicago casino operational. The City of Chicago has asked for changes in the recently enacted gaming law to allow for a lower tax rate for the Chicago Casino, but the General Assembly did not take action in the most recent veto session. Look for action on this when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

Legislative Changes

Senate President John Cullerton has announced his retirement. A new Senate President is slated to be elected on January 19th.

Senator Mattie Hunter was named Chairman of the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee.

EXP

“Become involved in your professional community and always looks for opportunities to grow,”

says EXP's department manager, water resources, Sandy Homola when asked for a key tip for young professionals. As a manager, technical expert and active member of various professional organizations, including being recently elected Treasurer of the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-IS), she is always investing in coworkers, employees and the next generation of engineers.

Sandy answers a few questions about what has helped her grow throughout her career and what, in turn, can help others do the same.

(Continue reading [HERE](#))

ACEC ILLINOIS FALL CONFERENCE WRAP UP:



CONGRATULATIONS to:
Phil Houser for receiving the Community Service Award.



CONGRATULATIONS to:
Mark Harms of SCI Engineering for winning the PAC Raffle.

save the date

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 3

Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL

IDOT MYP Breakfast

DECEMBER 4

Chicago, IL

City of Chicago Agencies "Look Ahead" Luncheon with CDOT, CDA and CDWM

SOLD OUT

DECEMBER 5

Schaumburg, IL

IDOT ADA Training

SOLD OUT

DECEMBER 6

Schaumburg, IL

IDOT ADA Training

REGISTER: <http://www.cvent.com/d/bhq3sh>

DECEMBER 10 & 11

Hyatt, Schaumburg

AASHTOWare Training

SOLD OUT

JANUARY 22

Union League Club

Tollway Regional Luncheon

JANUARY 28-30

Crowne Plaza Springfield, IL

FHWA Seismic Bridge Analysis and Design Workshop

FEBRUARY 19

Union League Club in Chicago, IL

ACEC Illinois Winter Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 20

Chicago, IL

2020 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

JUNE 11

Bloomington, IL

ACEC Illinois Spring Meeting & Board Meeting



JUNE 12

Bloomington, IL

Spring Golf Outing

THANK YOU ACEC ILLINOIS

SPONSORS

 <p>ACEC Business Insurance Trust <i>Engineered for Peace of Mind</i></p>	 <p>AMES & GOUGH</p>	 <p>benesch</p>	 <p>ClarkDietz <i>Engineering Quality of Life®</i></p>
 <p>COLLINS ENGINEERS</p>	 <p>CMT Crawford, Murphy & Tilly</p>	 <p>exp.</p>	 <p>Globetrotters Engineering Corporation</p>
 <p>GSG CONSULTANTS, INC. <small>WEATHER, WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT</small></p>	 <p>HR</p>	 <p>HOLMES MURPHY.</p>	 <p>LOCHNER <small>Client Focused Performance Driven Employee Owned</small></p>
 <p>OMEGA</p>	 <p>QUIGG ENGINEERING INC.</p>	 <p>STRAND ASSOCIATES</p>	 <p>Wight</p>

