

THE CONNECTOR

NOVEMBER 2022





LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

IDOT wins National QBS Award: IDOT Secretary Omer Osman and Bureau Chief Jack Elston attended the ACEC National Convention to accept the joint ACEC/NSPE award for QBS Excellence. We are grateful for IDOT's continued collaborative work with ACEC Illinois to enhance, strengthen and defend QBS.

ACEC Illinois Members Featured at National Conference: ACEC Illinois Members Paula Dixon (Holmes Murphy), John Clark (Peralte Clark) and Nick Laga (WSP) and Kevin Artl (ACEC IL) led a panel discussion on Client Selection and Liability in an Era of Emerging Technology and Delivery Models. The discussion focused on alternative delivery models and emerging technology in the 3d BIM space. Shane Jefferies (Milhouse) is on the ACEC Technology Steering Committee and Jeff Druckman (Bowman) serves on the ACEC National EEA Committee.

The Federal Highway Administration announced the selection of David L. Snyder as the Illinois Division Administrator.

Snyder has served as the Illinois Deputy Division Administrator since 2019. Prior to that, he served as the Director of Engineering and Operations in the Ohio Division.

Snyder began his FHWA career in 1994 as a Civil Engineer in the Highway Engineer

Training Program, then he served as an Area Engineer and Safety Engineer in the North Carolina Division. In 2002 Dave began serving as the Environmental Program Manager in the Ohio Division where he was instrumental in implementing the nation's first statewide programmatic consultation for highway projects under the *Endangered Species Act*. Dave holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in North Carolina.

ACEC Research Institute Releases Design Build Study: The ACEC Research Institute today released a new study with the University of Colorado Boulder that examines the benefits and challenges both the project owners and firms face when applying the design-build (DB) delivery system.

<u>Project Delivery</u>, conducted by Keith Molenaar, Dean of the College of Engineering & Applied Science at the University of Colorado Boulder, details recommendations to firms and project owners, including federal agencies and industry, on successful delivery, as well as new information to enhance the benefits of cost and schedule savings associated with this project delivery method.

The White House noted the importance of the research, calling it a "landmark study" in the fact sheet released last week for the Action Plan to Accelerate Infrastructure

Changes for PTB 206: IDOT in consultation with ACEC will have changes impacting the SOI process beginning with PTB 206. These changes were an outgrowth of the coordination with the ACEC PTB/PSB Task Force and will address some of the confusing elements, redundancies and challenges associated with the pursuit process. We are grateful to have such receptive and responsive partner agency who understood the challenges and acted quickly to implement meaningful. To review the changes, click here. Also, IDOT will have additional Q and A posted on the PTB soon.

IDOT Release FY22/FY23 Engineering Lookahead: Illinois Department of Transportation recently released their *FY 2023 Proposed Highway Improvement Program* and the *Engineering PTB Look-Aheads*

ACEC Illinois Participates in Industry Policy Meeting with IDOT Leadership: Kevin Artl (ACEC IL) and Brad Riechmann (ACEC IL IDOT Chair/Horner & Shifrin) participated in an industry meeting with IDOT. Among the items discussed were:

- Land Acquisition: IDOT policy change on shifting land acquisition services from QBS to IFB and the impact that is having on both the industry and project delivery.
- IDOT Staffing Levels. It was announced by IDOT that Mike Stirk will begin before
 the end of the year as Bureau Chief for Innovative Delivery—heading up IDOT's
 entry into the Design Build space. IDOT is currently recruiting to fill the vacancy for
 Director of the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity.
- Supply Chain Issues: IDOT and Construction Industry representatives outlined a
 present cement shortage and also a looming diesel fuel shortage that could impact
 construction and pricing in the immediate future.
- MYP and Selections: ACEC IL requested that editable pdfs or excel sheets be made available of future MYP and consultant selection reports. IDOT is also issuing quarterly reports on program status that you can view here.
- Consultants Contracts: IDOT reported that there are currently 18 consultant

contracts that have aged more than 9 months still waiting for execution. Most of the contracts in this bucket are Phase 2 waiting on completion or FHWA approval of Phase 1. ACEC IL did ask for a deeper look into selections not yet at executed agreement and also non-utilized V-V contracts.

Chicago Releases Capital Plan Details

Setting the stage for the next two years, the 2023-24 Chicago Works Plan lays out the next phase of Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's multi-year, multi-billion-dollar Chicago Works Infrastructure Plan.

For more details, view the city's entire release <u>here.</u> Listed below are some of the highlights:

- Bridges and Viaducts—\$114.2 million—20 bridge replacement projects, \$47.0 million for strategic bridge repairs, \$8.3 million to rehabilitate 7 underpasses annually; and \$12.0 million to completely reconstruct two viaducts.
- Streets and Alleys—\$251.7 million—residential and arterial street resurfacing based on the Pavement Condition Index and ADA Ramp needs. Also funds the reconstruction of WPA streets, 100 new Green Alleys.
- Street Lighting—\$79.3 million—complete replacement of 200 blocks of residential lighting (two blocks per ward per year) and 100 blocks of arterial lighting, along with strategic targeted light pole replacements and wiring stabilization repairs.
- Traffic Signals—\$81.1 million—modernize City's historically underfunded traffic signal system with 60 full intersection replacements, critical intersection signal modifications, traffic signal interconnectedness, and battery back-ups.
- Sidewalks and Pedestrian Right-of-Way—\$64.1 million—sidewalk repair (hazardous, vaulted, shared sidewalk programs, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, and alley aprons) to increase accessibility and public safety.
- Complete Streets—\$58.0 million—improvements to and creation of new bike lanes, improvements to priority bus routes and Vision Zero pedestrian safety projects, \$13.9 million for pavement markings, \$166 million for 17 streetscape projects including those in Invest South/West Corridors, and \$6.0 million for public art projects.
- Waterways & Pathways—\$85.0 million—reconstruction of one mile of lakeshore encompassing Morgan Shoal and engineering of the Promontory Point. \$48.0 million towards the construction of the Englewood Trail.
- Lead Service Line Replacement (Private)—\$60.0 million—funding backstop for the 4,000-5,000 annual leaks and brakes that will require public and private lead service lines to be replaced starting January 1, 2023.

Quick Updates:

IDOT and Iowa DOT held a public meeting in the Quad Cities to provide an update on the future I-80 bridge there. Four possible locations for the new bridge remain, of the originally proposed seven. Another public meeting will be held next year to present the preferred location option. A final location will be chosen by the end of 2023. More FHWA announced new guidance this week to help states as they create Vulnerable

Road User Safety Assessments, a new system created by the IIJA. More TRIP, a non-profit think tank, released a new report showing the investment need for the country's rural roads. Illinois ranks 20th in the number of rural, non-Interstate traffic fatalities and 14th in share of rural bridges in poor/structurally deficient condition. Illinois did not rank in the top 25 of states in percentage of rural roads in poor condition. You can view the report here.

IDOT Wins National QBS Award:



Jeb Brooks, son of the late Congressman Jack Brooks, discusses the importance of QBS laws:



LISTEN TO THE PODCASTS BELOW AS ACEC NATIONAL INTERVIEWS IDOT'S OMER OSMAN AND JACK ELSTON. ALSO AN INTERVIEW WITH JEB BROOKS ABOUT QBS.







The 2022 QBS Award with IDOT's Secretary Osman



The Illinois Department of Transportation won the 2022 Qualifications-Based Selection Award at the 2022 Annual ACEC Fall Conference this year. Secretary Omer Osman was on hand to personally accept the award on behalf of the Department and he stopped by the podcast to discuss why QBS is important and how it guides the decisions of the engineers under his command.

The 50th Anniversary of the Brooks Act



Jeb Brooks, the son of Congressman Jack Brooks who authored the federal law on Qualifications-Based Selection joined the podcast live from our 2022 Fall Conference. During the conversation, we covered the history of the Books Act, its importance for public safety and the work of the Jack Brooks Foundation, which is working to keep the legacy of Congressman Books alive.

Member Firm Spotlight:



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

SINGH recently celebrated our 30th anniversary. We were founded by Mr. Sadhu Singh Rikhiraj – Ms. Harvind K. Singh became owner and President in 2019.

What projects are you currently working on?

SINGH provides a diverse range of engineering services for a broad spectrum of Transportation, Transit, and Aviation partners. We are proud to be working on several exciting projects as Prime

Consultant. Our Transportation Design Department is designing streetscape and corridor improvements for the City of Chicago INVEST South/West 79th Street Corridor, Stony Island Avenue to South Shore Drive to foster community and drive economic growth. We have a highly accomplished team of traffic engineers leading Traffic Signal Modernizations for the City of Chicago, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and DuPage County. SINGH's MEPIFP Facilities Department is leading the design to install Fiber Optic Cabling along Metra's Electric District Line, while supporting the Red Line Extension EIS & Preliminary Design team and several improvement projects at O'Hare International Airport. Our Roadway Electrical Department provides engineering design for roadway lighting systems, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and fiber optic systems in the roadway. Our Electrical Engineers are busy supporting multiple teams with the design of lighting and traffic signal improvements for multiple sections of the IDOT I-80 Reconstruction project and performing ITS planning and design for clients such as IDOT and the Illinois Tollway.

What project are you most proud of?

In 2015, SINGH was selected for our first prime contract with the Illinois Tollway. We, as a firm, had known we were capable and ready to be a prime, but this selection solidified it for us. Our contract is still ongoing, and has included large tasks, such as a truck parking feasibility study, the reconstruction of the 159th Street Bridge over I-294, engineering design for an interchange improvement, a systemwide CCTV enhancement project, and an LED lighting retrofit project for the Jane Addams and Reagan Memorial tollways. We have been able to showcase a variety of our engineering capabilities and meet the unique challenges that each task order from the Tollway presents. We are proud of this accomplishment and are looking forward to expanding our role as a prime for major transportation agencies in the region.

What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?

As a small and growing DBE, there are times when it feels like we don't have the same resources as larger firms. ACEC-IL provides training and networking opportunities, in addition to protecting the integrity of the industry and advocating for common-sense solutions to difficult transportation and infrastructure challenges.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

Whether you're a new firm or an established one, ACEC-IL has resources and opportunities for everyone. The connections that you will make within this organization are unique and simply not offered with any other membership. If you have a question or concern about something in our industry, someone in this group can help you solve it. In addition to offering top notch connections and resources, there are also plenty of fun events to attend throughout the year.

Affiliate Member Spotlight:



What does your business do?

For over 60 years, our team has been guiding clients through the critical decisions that impact their financial health. As one of the largest accounting and consulting firms in the Midwest, we are able to provide the in-depth expertise expected from a larger firm with the personable approach of a local practice.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

We are more than the traditional CPA Firm. Our industry experts have years of practical experience advising on the complex operations, opportunities and leadership needs of today's engineering firm. We focus on providing value. Our expertise is vital in helping firms retain key employees, transition to the next generation of leaders, drive operational excellence and

develop creative financial and tax-efficient strategies to maximize return.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

We care about the Illinois Engineering Community and want to be able to provide each member firm with the best opportunity to succeed.

What is your business's motto?

Building Relationships, Delivering Results - Our secret to success is people. The depth of personal and professional relationships we have with our clients is our foundation. We get to know you and your business in order to build a proactive, customized approach unique to your needs.

Committee Chair Spotlight:



How long have you been a part of ACEC IL? 2014 when the Affiliate program began

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

- Affiliate Task Force Committee
- ACEC-IL Sponsorship Chair
- Students Engaging in Engineering Committee Chair

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

As a professional organization, it is our goal to raise public awareness of our engineering profession and the value that our services add to the ever-changing world we live in. We strive to create a sustainable and diverse work force through SEE outreach initiatives and are committed to partnering with agencies and like-minded associations. The program continues foster our relationship with Dixon Elementary School (a K-8 school) on the southside of Chicago and focuses on grades 5th-8th. Our youth today gets bored easily, so as the ACEC-IL SEE Committee, we engage and excite kids at their level, get their hands dirty, create things, pull apart things, challenge their minds, find solutions, and fix things. The committees enthusiastic engineering guides infiltrate educational institutions and get youth excited about pursuing a career in engineering. The SEE Program is multi-faceted with a tiered approach marked by milestone achievement awards to encourage a commitment in future engineering.

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

The SEE Club is a fantastic way to show kids the cool and fun side of our industry. It's a way to give back to our communities that we plan, design, and build; and most importantly it provides the ability to be mentors and be a positive influence on kids at an impressionable age.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Play golf!

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

My entrepreneurship started back when I was 7 years old by setting up a "store" (with items I already

had in my home) and invited my neighbor friends to shop. I provided them with play money, had a cash register and did all the sales/accounting in a journal. I then took the next step when I was 8 years old and started a small company (this time real) selling stationery and paper goods door to door. From there on out, business owning was always in my blood.

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

November 2, 2022
Public Transportation Committee
Innovations Committee

November 4, 2022 Financial Management Committee

December 14, 2022
Public Transportation Committee

January11, 2023 Materials Committee

February 9, 2023
Risk Management Committee

NEW MEMBER



Bartlett & West

1027 Sinclair Drive, Suite 2 Jerseyville, IL 62052 Phone: 618-494-4001

Website: www.bartlettwest.com



KAD Engineering, LLC

1015 Plaintain Drive Joliet, IL 60431 Phone: 630-881-3823

Website: www.kadengineeringgroup.com

PECO & Associates, Inc.

5735 South Harlem Avenue Chicago, IL 60638

Phone: 773-586-0600

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

American Engineering Consultants, INC

5858 North Northwest Highway, Suite F



Chicago, IL 60631 Phone: 773-556-7329

Website: www.americanengconsultants.com

EVENTS UPDATE:

NOVEMBER

Regional Luncheon with RTA

November 7, 2022 | 11:30a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Maggiano's | 240 OakBrook Center, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Register Here: https://cvent.me/xoaPOr

NSBA Steel Bridge Forum

November 15, 2022 | 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62764
Register Here: https://cvent.me/mXwAda

Webinar: Creating the Project Budget
November 16, 2022 | 12:00p.m.

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members
Register Here: https://cvent.me/l8742B

Networking and Darts with ACEC Emerging Professionals
November 16, 2022 | 6:15p.m. - 8:15p.m.
Flight Club Darts | 111 Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601
Register Here: https://cvent.me/Qg8Zdx

DECEMBER

ACEC Illinois Oliday Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman-Springfield
December 5, 2022 | 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum | 212 N. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701
Register Here: https://cvent.me/v8KqvZ

ACEC Illinois Holiday Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman-Oak Brook
December 13, 2022 | 6:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.
The Drake-Oak Brook | 2301 York Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523
Register Here: https://cvent.me/y8KqvZ

Webinar: Going "Deep" on Subs
December 14, 2022 | 12:00p.m.
*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members
Register Here: https://cvent.me/l8742B

JANUARY

Webinar: Mindfulness in Consulting Part II

January 18, 2023 | 12:00p.m.

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members

Register Here: https://cvent.me/l8742B

FEBRUARY

Webinar: Lifelong Learning:
how to engage, teach & be taught
February 15, 2023 | 12:00p.m.
*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members
Register Here: https://cvent.me/l8742B

Save the Date: Engineering Excellence Awards
February 16, 2023
Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago
9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, IL 60018

MARCH

Webinar: Designing to Standards - Where do they Come From March 15, 2023 | 12:00p.m.

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members
Register Here: https://cvent.me/18742B

APRIL

Topgolf Networking Event - Hosted by: Emerging Professionals Committee
April 11, 2023 | 5:30p.m. - 7:30p.m.
Topgolf Naperville | 3211 Odyssey Court, Naperville, IL 60563
Registration To Come

Webinar: An Introduction to Project Management in Consulting
April 12, 2023 | 12:00p.m.

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members
Register Here: https://cvent.me/18742B

VIRTUAL: TRAINING AND INFORMATION TO COMPLY WITH NEW CITY OF CHICAGO SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING ORDINANCE



Catherine Strauss Office Managing Partner Columbus



Ryan McCabe Poor Partner Indianapolis





To request a recording:

- 1. Email bethany@acecil.org
- 2.Be emailed an invoice.
- 3. Then, you will be emailed a video recording and PDH.

VIRTUAL: BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

PRESENTER:



Carlos A. Feliciano, P.E. In-House Studies Unit Head / ADA & Bicycle Coordinator

This presentation includes a summary of IDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations policy. The training will go into detail on policies, warrants, design considerations and proper documentation practices for inclusion of active transportation facilities in State led roadway improvements in compliance with IDOT's Complete Streets policy.

To request a recording of:

- 1. Email bethany@acecil.org
- 2. Be emailed an invoice for \$45.
- 3. Then, you will be emailed a video recording and PDH.

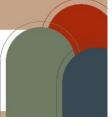
HOSTED BY:



PRESENTED BY:



Illinois Department of Transportation



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS





Jacob Parrish, El has joined our Municipal Group as a Project Engineer. He brings four plus years' experience in the water industry and will add to the firm's design and construction capabilities for our existing clients.

Kristine Legler has joined our Business Development / Marketing Group as a Marketing Assistant. She is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Photography. Her graphic design and creativity will be a welcome addition to the firm's marketing team.

About Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), founded in 1974, is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 55 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance and municipal consulting. Our core values guide our staff on every project from initiation through completion keeping us committed to quality, service, and value for our clients. By offering outstanding service to every client every day we are able to assist with bettering the communities in which we serve. For additional information visit our website at www.eeiweb.com.



Julie Goodin Joins Oates Associates as a Controller



COLLINSVILLE (October 7, 2022) -

Oates Associates recently welcomed **Julie Goodin, CPA**, to the firm's administration as a controller. With the latest leadership changes at Oates, the firm introduced this newly created role to fulfill their need to have a finance expert on staff. With over 17 years of accounting experience, Julie will oversee the firm's accounting strategies and assist project managers with the financial aspects of their projects.

"Our team at Oates is thrilled to welcome Julie as our new controller. After announcing my retirement to the Oates board of directors, we began the transition planning process, which involved discussions of roles and responsibilities. That's when the board identified a need for a controller. Julie's financial expertise and upbeat personality will make her an excellent addition to the team," said Joseph Hagerty, Chief Executive Officer.

Her previous roles include instructing accounting courses at a local university and most recently working for an e-accounting company where she managed the accounting and financial functions for multiple clients in various industries.

About Oates Associates:

Oates Associates is a multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation and traffic engineering, ADA transition planning, stormwater management, site design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, surveying and drone operations. For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.



ACEC BIT PLI DEDUCTIBLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \$10,000 Deductible Assistance

The ACEC Business Insurance Trust understands how these claims can be disruptive to your finances and operations. That's why we launched a new deductible assistance program to support our member firms, offering up to \$10,000 paid annually per firm, per settled claim.

This program is only available to firms who purchase PLI through the ACEC BIT Program with \$2.5 million in revenue or less per your last completed Professional Liability Application.

Take advantage of another ACEC BIT member benefit and get a little extra insurance. Just in case.

If you are already a member of the BIT and have a claim settled within the last 90 days you can download the deductible assistance application.

Contact us to learn more about how much you can save by joining the ACEC BIT Program



JEFF CONNELLY
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Mobile (636) 236-0212



LEE ANN WHEELER
CLIENT EXECUTIVE
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leeann.wheeler@greyling.com
Mobile (605) 351-3647

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WHKS Announces the Addition of Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.

WHKS is excited to welcome Carl Puzey who joins our team as a Structural Engineer in our Springfield Office. As a member of the WHKS Structural Team, Carl will manage the design of new bridges and the evaluation, repair and rehabilitation of existing bridges.



Prior to joining WHKS, Carl was employed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (Illinois DOT) for over 30 years, most recently as the State Bridge Engineer. He held various positions with technical responsibility and management of staff to accomplish a wide variety of bridge inspection, planning, design, repair and rehabilitation projects throughout the state.

Carl received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University. He is a licensed professional and structural engineer in Illinois. "We are so happy, and proud, that Carl has joined the WHKS Team. Carl has been a great asset to the Department over the last 30+ years as an engineer, a mentor and a leader and we are excited for what he will bring to our company and our clients. His contributions to our goal of providing outstanding value and service to the Department and all of our clients will be considerable."

- Scott Sanford, P.E., S.E. - Vice President

"Carl's expertise in structural engineering and his unparalleled knowledge of Illinois DOT standards and policies helps solidify our position as a transportation leader in the Midwest. We've worked with Carl on many projects over the years. His attention to detail and commitment to excellence is second to none and he brings tremendous value to the WHKS Team."

- Fouad Daoud, P.E., S.E. - President and CEO

Interested in a career with WHKS? We have openings in multiple areas and office locations. For more information on career opportunities with WHKS, please see https://www.whks.com/careers/.



shaping the horizon

What is a Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment (PESA)? A3E ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

A Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment (PESA) is the exact same as aPhase 1 ESA only instead of the investigation being done on a particular commercial property, it's performed on a corridor of Rights of Way (ROW). Essentially it's a long and narrow Phase 1 ESA which seeks to find all the possible environmental impacts along the corridor which is being assessed. If you're with a financial lending institution looking for a Preliminary ESA, you are most likely looking for a Transaction Screen Assessment (TSA) which can be found by clicking through the link. They are frequently mistaken for PESA.

Before we get too deep, you should check out this post describing what a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. It will give you a good base of understanding about PESA's.

Continue Reading Here



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