COVID-19 RESOURCES:

ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center
ACEC/MO COVID-19 Resource Center
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Federal Actions Relating to COVID-19
Federal Guidance on COVID-19
Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry Coronavirus Resources
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services
MO Association of Counties Operation & Workplace Guidance Resources
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Awareness Campaign
Small Business Administration: Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources
USDA Rural Development COVID-19

ACEC Research Institute Releases Findings of COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Series

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented disruption in America's economy, which extended to the engineering industry. To gauge the effect of the economic shutdown on design firms, the ACEC Research Institute – the research arm of the American Council of Engineering Companies – conducted a
series of surveys to accurately measure the pandemic’s effect on the industry. The summary of those surveys is now available.

“The Business Impact Surveys are the first of their kind to accurately measure our industry’s response to a real time crisis,” said ACEC Research Institute Chair John Carrato. “The data collected from week to week enabled firm executives to plan with knowledge of how their peers were reacting to the economic shutdown and Federal assistance programs.”

Over seven waves of polls, the Business Impact Survey delivered a weekly measurement of the engineering industry as it navigated the challenges of hiring, workplace culture, operations, travel and overall economic sentiment.

“The pandemic was an unforeseen and unique challenge for our industry,” said Charles Gozdziewski, ACEC’s Board Chair. “Firm executives were forced into uncharted waters, adapting to forced changes to workplace operations, commuting, project work and financial planning. The Business Impact Surveys gave our members a roadmap to check their own planning against industry trends on a weekly basis. Its value underscored the importance of the Institute’s mission.”

Now that the final survey has been analyzed, the ACEC Research Institute is pleased to release its executive summary, which tells a story of an industry that quickly pivoted to absorb the initial shock of the economic shutdown, utilized federal assistance through the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program, and looked to turn challenge into opportunity by expanding into new business lines. The executive summary and a supporting infographic can be downloaded here. Contact Jeff Urbanchuk at the ACEC Research Institute for comment. For more information about the ACEC Research Institute, visit its website at www.acecresearchinstitute.org.

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**Revised PPP Loan Forgiveness Applications**

*by Katharine Mottley, Vice President, Tax and Regulatory Affairs, ACEC*

The SBA has released two new versions of the PPP loan forgiveness application: the standard PPP loan forgiveness application and the EZ loan forgiveness application. Both are designed to implement the PPP Flexibility Act (HR 7010).

The EZ application is available to borrowers that:

1. Are self-employed and have no employees; OR
2. Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%, and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; OR
3. Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19, and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%.

There are also further revisions to the PPP interim final rule, the substance of which starts on page 7 of this document. We will continue to provide you with additional information as we receive it.

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**ACEC Releases Guide for Returning to the Office and Job Site in the Time of COVID-19**

To help firms meet the challenge of safely returning to the workplace and job site while managing legal risk, ACEC has released the first digital edition of its Guide to Returning to the Office and the Job Site in the Time of COVID-19.
“There is significant uncertainty and apprehension when it comes to reopening an office during this pandemic,” said ACEC President & CEO Linda Bauer Darr. “We are in uncharted waters for firm leaders who want to reopen their doors and get out to meet with clients at job sites. This guide is aimed at answering some of those questions so the industry can get back to work safely.”

The Guide is divided into five sections: (1) Planning the Return; (2) Health Policy and Procedures; (3) Returning to the Office; (4) Returning to the Job Site; and (5) links to additional COVID-19 resources. It incorporates information from a number of sources, including the CDC, OSHA, FDA, private sector organizations both in and outside the engineering industry, and legal counsel.

Due to the ever-changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, the Guide will be updated, as needed to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information possible for firm leaders and their administrative staff. The Guide can be downloaded for free on the ACEC Coronavirus Resource Page, or by clicking on the link below.

MoDOT / Industry COVID-19 Weekly Update

The Missouri Department of Transportation held a COVID-19 Industry Meeting on June 10, 2020. Attendees included were from ACEC, ACPA, AGC, KC Heavy Constructors, MAPA, MLPA, MoDOT and SITE. They discussed the following:

- Action items from previous meetings (traffic data compared to same time last year)
- Shared Work Program
- Need for Greater Communication on Project Scheduling
- Contract Status
- Federal Funding
- Director's Update
- Roundtable Discussion.

To see the complete minutes from the meeting, click on the link below or go to the ACEC/MO COVID-19 Resource Center. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

- MoDOT / Industry COVID-19 Meeting Minutes 6-10-20

Engineering Tax Deductions (179D), The CARES Act and Making the Most of 2020 Webinar

Register now for the next free ACEC webinar brought to you by @BRAYNConsulting: Engineering Tax Deductions (179D), the CARES Act and Making the Most of 2020. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET). Register now for the June 23rd event AND for your chance to win a Zeus Charger! Click HERE for more information or to register.
Online Forum to Address Infrastructure Investment as Economic Accelerator, Opportunity Generator

The ACEC Research Institute is co-sponsoring the upcoming New Partnership on Infrastructure Forum, which will address how infrastructure investment can be critical to accelerating our economic recovery and generating the local opportunities and community wealth necessary to break generational cycles of inequality. The free online event will be on June 23rd at 2:00 pm ET. Click here to register.

The Forum will feature an panel discussion with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, and Waterloo, IA Mayor Quentin Hart and the release of America's New Playbook for Infrastructure, which offers specific and actionable recommendations for infrastructure investment based on interviews with the mayors of Chattanooga, Scranton, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Tampa, Kansas City, and Dayton, as well as other officials. All of the interviews took place since March, making the Playbook ready for this moment.

In addition to the ACEC Research Institute, the Forum is sponsored by Accelerator for America, HNTB, WSP USA, City Possible, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Meridiam NA.

ACEC Research Institute to Host Expert Roundtables on Post-COVID-19 Engineering Industry

The ACEC Research Institute will host two more virtual expert roundtables over the coming month exploring the post-COVID-19 engineering industry and the challenges and opportunities for engineering firms. Right now, we are focused on the short-term, but these sessions will look farther out to the horizon to help firm leaders think about what the marketplace will be like and what they need to do to succeed.

The Institute will live-stream the roundtables and invites ACEC members—and non-members—to attend and participate in the discussions. Each roundtable will be an hour-long and will allow for questions from the audience. To register for one or more of the roundtables, click on the links below.

- June 25 Panel: The Buildings We Live and Work In (3:30 pm ET)
- July 16 Panel: Funding in the New Normal (1:30 pm ET)
Free Member Roundtable on COVID-19 Impact on Private/Vertical Markets, June 22

As part of ACEC’s outreach to member firms during the coronavirus pandemic, the Council will convene a virtual roundtable on **Monday, June 22 at 3:30 pm ET** to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the private/vertical markets. The session, which will be moderated by HED President Mike Cooper, will provide members with a platform to share ideas and discuss the issues facing their business, including:

- Disruptions and opportunities in different private/vertical markets, such as commercial real estate, health care, manufacturing and higher education
- Safety (including on private-client job sites)
- Cash flow and accounts receivables
- Client development during this difficult time
- ACEC member firms' biggest concerns regarding the private/vertical markets, and what sort of resources may be helpful.

Registration for the session will be capped at 80 participants so register soon. Click [here](#) to register.

The Future of Workplace Webinar

Last month we launched an unprecedented report, **The Future of Workplace** based on our findings of the current work from home experience. We captured more than 2.5 million data points from over 50,000 workers all over the globe - the largest survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the work we do. We will share our findings, discuss what is the role of the office and reimagine how and where we will live and work in the future. Cushman & Wakefield is hosting a webinar on **The Future of Workplace** on **Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** They'll have 7 speakers on the webinar. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Client Relations in the Era of COVID-19

*by Friedman & Partners*

As COVID-19 turns business as we know it—and our global communities—upside down, there are no easy answers or sure projections. While some AEC and environmental consulting firms have not experienced a disruption to projects, others are seeing warning signs and are increasingly nervous about what’s next and some are already slashing costs to contain the bleeding.

Multiple industry surveys reveal that the business impacts, like the virus itself, could vary widely and may well get worse before they get better. I’m hearing from many firm leaders who are doing their best to balance the day-to-day pandemic response with planning for project delays and revenue declines.

None of us knows when our business life will return to any sense of normalcy, but we do know this: firms must prioritize their relationships with current and prospective clients now so that those relationships come out stronger on the other side […]

To read the full article, click [HERE](#).
Covering Coronavirus: Risk Considerations

The global COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic remains both dynamic and fluid. We continue to see unprecedented disruptions at home and abroad. In this issue, we take a focused look at the below topics. To see the complete issue, click HERE.

1. Emergency Exemption Extension for Commercial Drivers
2. Commercial Property Coverage for Riots
3. Hurricane Preparation Checklist
4. WC Presumptive Compensability Legislation Update
5. Monitoring Remote Workers

Upcoming Webinar: Open Enrollment During a Pandemic
You'll walk away with effective Employee Communication strategies and HR Technology solutions to leverage this year. If you are feeling intimidated or unsure how to tackle Open Enrollment this year, join us for an empowering discussion.

Thursday, June 25
1:00 PM to 1:30 PM CT
REGISTER

Return to Work Survey | View Results
Employee Engagement Survey | View Results
Open Enrollment Survey | View Results
Onboarding & Offboarding Survey | View Results
Additional Benefit Offerings | View Results
Wellness | View Results
Assessing Financial Risk | View Results

Visit epicbrokers.com/coronavirus to catch up on all our coverage.