Items included in this ACEC Missouri Weekly Update are listed below.

- **Committee & Liaison Committee News** (ACEC/MO Virtual Liaison Committee Meetings Available to All Members; FMDC / ACECMO / AIA Liaison Committee Meeting)

- **Industry News** (ACEC Files Comments in Support of FHWA Proposal on Design Standards; Cyber Security Advisory for Water & Wastewater Systems; Missouri Reaches Major Infrastructure Milestone, Completes 100th Bridge in Focus on Bridges Program; Missouri Clean Water Commission Posting of Meeting Agenda & Briefing Packet; MFTI Policy Virtual Retreat; St. Louis Construction Guideline of the Month)

- **COVID-19 News** (ACEC Urges Passage of the COVID-19 Relief and Consolidated Appropriations Act; Three Positive Outcomes the Pandemic Will Have on Communities in 2021)

- **Notable Events** (FYI...More Upcoming Free Webinars; Registration Now Open for ACEC/MO's 2021 Future Leaders Academy)

- **Member Information & Calendar** (Submit QBS Award Nominations by December 31st; Calendar of Events)

If there is something you would like us to include in the weekly updates, or if you need anything else, please contact the ACEC/MO staff: Morgan Mundell, Bruce Wylie, or Dawn Hill. We would love to hear from you!

**COMMITTEE & LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS**

**ACEC/MO Virtual Liaison Committee Meetings Available to All Members**

During ACEC/MO’s Board of Directors / Membership Meeting on November 13, 2020, members discussed the option of opening up our virtual liaison committee meetings to all members that want to attend. We are working on setting that up with the agencies that will allow us to do it. This morning was the MoDOT (HQ) / ACECMO Liaison Committee Meeting, which was our first attempt at opening it up to all members and it went very well. Once we get approval to allow members to attend other liaison committee meetings, we’ll send out meeting invites.
GUIDELINES: If you are not a liaison committee member, we'll ask that you have your video off and you can only listen to the meeting and submit questions in the chat box. Only the liaison committee members will have their video on and will speak during the meetings.

If you have any questions, you can contact Dawn or Morgan at the ACEC/MO office at (573) 634-4080.

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**FMDC / ACECMO / AIA Liaison Committee Meeting**

The FMDC / ACECMO / AIA Liaison Committee met virtually on December 2, 2020. ACEC/MO members in attendance were: Craig Brauer, Mike Davis, Bruce Dawson, Paul Reitz, Chad Schrand, Steve Schultz, Dick Scott and Vicki LaRose. Topics of discussion included the below items:

- FMDC Staff Changes
- FMDC Funding Status
- Future of Projects Being Released
- Update on Any Changes in Policy Since COVID-19
- Status of Updates on ACE webpage and E-Builder

To read the complete minutes from the meeting, click [here](#). They are also posted on our [website](#) along with minutes from the most recent meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021.

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**ACEC Files Comments in Support of FHWA Proposal on Design Standards**

ACEC is supporting a proposed regulatory change from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to give states more latitude on design standards for resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation (RRR) projects on the National Highway System. The rule would allow State DOTs to develop RRR freeway projects using a performance-based approach rather than follow more stringent design standards that would apply to any new construction.
“These changes will allow engineering firms and their agency clients to focus on context-sensitive solutions and will provide flexibility for exercising professional engineering judgment rather than focusing on prescribed design criteria that may not suit a particular project,” the Council explained in comments submitted to the agency. “This successful approach has been in place on non-interstate RRR projects for many years, and we should apply those lessons learned to NHS projects. These performance-based design standards will empower engineers to design transportation solutions best suited for a particular project’s needs without compromising safety or roadway performance.”

The policies developed by State DOTs would be subject to FHWA approval to ensure safety and cost-effectiveness. More information on the proposal is available here.

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**Cyber Security Advisory for Water & Wastewater Systems**

The Department is passing along the below alert from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for your awareness.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is aware of active exploitation of SolarWinds Orion Platform software versions 2019.4 HF 5 through 2020.2.1 HF1, released between March 2020 through June 2020.

CISA encourages affected organizations to read the SolarWinds and FireEye advisories for more information and FireEye’s GitHub page for detection countermeasures, which can be found by clicking here.

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**Missouri Reaches Major Infrastructure Milestone, Completes 100th Bridge in Focus on Bridges Program**

In just over one year, 100 of Missouri's poorest bridges have been replaced or rehabilitated through Governor Mike Parson's “Focus on Bridges” program. Today, the program's 100th bridge opened in Livingston County on Route 190 over the Thompson River. This is the 21st bridge completed in the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) Northwest District. The program’s first bridge opened on December 20, 2019, in Iron County in MoDOT’s Southeast District where 23 bridges have now been completed.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been a year since we launched the Focus on Bridges program. This was a major priority for our administration, and we are proud of MoDOT for continuing to move these critical projects forward during one of the most challenging times for our state,” Governor Parson said. “This is an exciting milestone for infrastructure [...]

To read the full article, click here.

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**Missouri Clean Water Commission Posting of Meeting Agenda & Briefing Packet**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has posted the January 7, 2021, Missouri Clean Water Commission meeting agenda and briefing
packet on our MDNR under the heading Upcoming Meetings. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. via Webex and call-in only. Information on how to join the meeting remotely is listed below.

**Join Webex Meeting**
Enter the event password: CWC
Click "Join Now".

*Follow the instructions that appear on your screen to join the teleconference.*

-or-
Call-in toll number (US/Canada): 1-650-479-3207
Access code: 177 500 1198

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**MFTI Policy Virtual Retreat**

ACEC/MO members attended a Missourians for Transportation Investment (MFTI) Policy Virtual Retreat on December 17, 2021. Those in attendance from ACEC/MO included Becky Baltz, Mike DeBacker, Kevin Fuller, Bob Gilbert, Dan Meckes, Linda Moen, Kevin Wallace, Morgan Mundell and Bruce Wylie.

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**St. Louis Construction Guideline of the Month**

ACEC/MO has been posting monthly reports on Construction Guidelines for review. Members of the St. Louis Construction Alliance Committee (ACEC/MO, AIA-St. Louis, AGCMO, CSI-STL, IFMA-St. Louis and SLCCC) meet bi-monthly to continually update the guidelines to keep pace with current industry practices. The Construction Guidelines are housed on the [AGC of Missouri’s website](#) under the Member Resources tab.

A few months ago, Steve Gantner of Conspectus and a member of the St. Louis Construction Alliance Committee, began publishing a monthly blog on the construction guidelines. Each month’s topic is the particular Construction Guideline of the Month. So, rather than posting our usual monthly article, we are including a link to [Steve’s blog](#). This month’s featured guideline is “Progress Meetings”.

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**COVID-19 NEWS**

**ACEC Urges Passage of the COVID-19 Relief and Consolidated Appropriations Act**

The American Council of Engineering Companies, the business voice of America’s engineers, issued the following statement from its President & CEO, Linda Bauer Darr urging Congress to pass the COVID-19 Relief and Consolidated Appropriations Act: “We urge swift passage of the COVID-19 relief legislation now before the House and Senate. Contained within the bill are programs and policies that are essential to maintain the health of the engineering industry as we enter 2021. PPP loan tax deductibility and loan forgiveness for small
businesses will help our firms maintain much needed cash flow. Supplemental funding for highways and transit programs will keep essential projects on schedule and the inclusion of WRDA will continue Congress’ predictive biennial authorization of critical programs to support our coastal communities and our water infrastructure.

In addition to these measures, the bill makes permanent the 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction and extends the tax credits for wind, solar, and other renewable resources. It also extends through 2025 the Employer Participation in Repayment Act (ERPA), which allows employers to provide up to $5,250 in student loan payments without it being a taxable benefit to the employee. This is all good policy contained in a stimulus bill that is urgently needed by America’s businesses and the families they employ. ACEC urges passage of this critical legislation.”

Three Positive Outcomes the Pandemic Will Have on Communities in 2021
by Bartlett & West, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of people’s lives, both at home and at work. While there have been many unfortunate outcomes from the pandemic, it also helped reveal some areas where organizations and communities could make improvements. As 2020 comes to an end, Bartlett & West, Inc. shared a few highlights of improvements coming out of the pandemic in the areas listed below. To read their full article, click here.

- Wastewater surveillance as an early warning of infectious disease spread
- HVAC systems used to lower the spread of viruses
- Connecting rural communities

These outcomes represent just a few ways the pandemic has helped make a positive impact. Throughout 2020 we have all learned to become more flexible, change our priorities as needed and adapt as we encounter new situations. As we head into 2021, organizations of all types will continue to evolve as changing citizen expectations accelerates digital transformations, sustainability imperatives and safety initiatives.

NOTABLE EVENTS

FYI...More Upcoming Free Webinars

Below is a list of upcoming FREE webinars provided by other companies. Click on the links below for more information and to register for the webinars.

**Getting a Grip on the Changing World of Bid Requirements**
**Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:00 PM**
New requirements from owners for more detailed estimates and the tighter profit margins of the COVID era have contractors looking for an edge. More consistent estimating, better preconstruction planning and applying lessons learned from earlier downturns in construction, will all be needed to get through the next few years. In this webinar, ENR will talk with estimators, contractors and others that are finding better ways to bid. Can't attend live? Register to view the webinar on-demand!
Registration Now Open for ACEC/MO’s 2021 Future Leaders Academy

Does your firm have a candidate for ACEC/MO’s 2021 Future Leaders Academy (FLA)? Registration for the 12th Annual FLA program is now open. The dates for the 2021 FLA program are set for May 4-5 in Jefferson City; June 2-3 in St. Louis; and July 6-7 in Independence.

The FLA is an extensive leadership program for young leaders in private consulting firms committed to developing their leadership abilities. The program is most beneficial to those participants with approximately 8-15 years of industry experience. These highly interactive sessions are taught by experts in the field of business administration and people management in professional service firms.

Registration information was emailed to members and is posted on our website. To register for the 2021 FLA Program, click on the "Register Now for ACEC/MO’s 2021 Future Leaders Academy" link below. If you want a spot in the 2021 class, please send in your registration form or contact Dawn Hill at 573-634-4080 or DawnHill@acecmo.org.

MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR

Submit QBS Award Nominations by December 31st

The ACEC/MO QBS Award was established to recognize outstanding support of the Qualifications-Based Selection procedures. The contributions can made in many forms but must embody a commitment to and support and promotion of QBS. ACEC/MO gives an annual award in the categories of government and non-government. If you work with a public or private client that uses or has converted to the QBS method, go to our website for a nomination form if you want to submit them for an award. The deadline to submit a nomination form is December 31, 2020. The award will be given at ACEC/MO’s Winter Meeting Awards Ceremony on February 12, 2021 in Chesterfield.

Calendar of Events

February 11-12, 2021 (NEW DATES) -- ACEC/MO Winter Meeting & Awards Ceremony
April 25-28, 2021 -- ACEC Annual Convention & Legislative Summit, Washington, DC
May 4-5, 2021 -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Jefferson City
June 2-3, 2021 -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Louis
July 6-7, 2021 -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Independence
August 23, 2021 -- ACEC/MO 5th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Columbia
August 27, 2021 -- ACEC/MO Summer Meeting
November 12, 2021 -- ACEC/MO Fall Meeting

Newly added events are italicized. To see a complete calendar of events, go to ACEC/MO's website.