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

- **COVID-19 News** *(How the Coronavirus Pandemic Will Reshape Cities)*
- **Industry News** *(Member Firm Offering Free Webinars to Earn PDHs; New RFPs/RFQs on ACEC/MO Website; New St. Louis Construction Guideline for Review)*
- **Notable Events** *(Update on ACEC Virtual Convention and Introducing the ACEC Research Institute)*
- **Member Information & Calendar** *(Member News; 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. We are working remotely so the best way to contact us is by email: Bruce Wylie (BruceWylie@acecmo.org) or Dawn Hill (DawnHill@acecmo.org). We would love to hear from you!

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**COVID-19 NEWS**

**How the Coronavirus Pandemic Will Reshape Cities**

The coronavirus pandemic will leave its mark on urban centers long after the outbreak itself recedes.

**Why it matters:** The most densely populated cities are ground zero for the virus' rapid spread and highest death tolls — and they're also likely to be pioneers in making lasting changes to help prevent the same level of devastation in the future.

**The big picture:** The combination of urbanization, climate change and a hyper-connected society means infectious disease epidemics are likely to become more common, the World Economic Forum [weforum.org] warns.

**What to watch:** Here are predictions from urban experts on how cities might change.

**Buildings:** We spend 90% of our time indoors. "Buildings, if managed poorly, can spread disease. But if we get it right, we can enlist our schools, offices and homes in this fight," said
Whitney Austin Gray, senior vice president of the International Well Building Institute in an Urban Land Institute webinar.

- Gray says building owners and builders should improve air ventilation and filtration to control microbes and mold in the air. Increasing indoor humidity can also help us to be less susceptible to germs.
- Meeting areas like entryways and public transit stations should be designed with enough space to avoid over-crowding — like separate staircases for ascending and descending traffic.

Streets and sidewalks: "When we start to think about social distancing, we may see a rapid transition to broader sidewalks and closing streets and giving people more space to get around in cities," said Brooks Rainwater, director of the National League of Cities' Center for City Solutions.

- New York City is closing off some streets [axios.com] to vehicles to open up more space for pedestrians as parks became crowded. There's a push to do the same in Philadelphia [inquirer.com].
- These changes aren't permanent, but they'll likely help renew interest in bike and walking paths and in closing some roads to vehicles more often. Permanent structural changes to sidewalks will take time.

Transportation: At least at first, commuters are likely to view personal cars as safer than public transit or shared options like e-scooters or ride-hailing, says David Zipper, a visiting fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Taubman Center for State and Local Government.

- He points out in a LinkedIn post [nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] that, as of two weeks ago, China's transit trips had barely hit 50% of normal traffic, while auto traffic had already ramped back up to 96%.
- "Even when we get the green light, there's going to be a lag — and a fairly long lag — before people are comfortable getting on a crowded train or a packed bus at rush hour," he said. "It creates a tailwind not only for personal vehicle trips but also personally owned bikes and scooters."

Airports: Temperature checks and other health screenings will likely become more common, Richard Florida and Steven Pedigo write in a piece published by the Brookings Institution [brookings.edu].

- Enforcing social distancing will be key for some time in places that are usually packed with people. That can be done by painting lines on floors or rope lines to remind people to give each other space.

Remote work: This prolonged period of working from home is expected to accelerate corporate America's acceptance of remote work as a more permanent part of workplace culture.

- That means people don't necessarily need to live within commuting distance to a company's headquarters, allowing employees to disperse further away from dense urban centers.
- This could help reduce commuting-related pollution and the public health risks of crowded cities, but population movement won't happen overnight. Plus, people tend to stay put during economic slowdowns.

Digital services: Operationally, cities have been forced to deliver more resident services digitally since offices closed and staff have been working remotely. Some city councils, for example, have held meetings virtually.

- They may find that there are certain efficiencies to continuing to work this way, or at least being prepared to so, according to What Works Cities, a national initiative to help cities tackle pressing challenges.

How we shop, eat and gather: While people will be eager to be out and about when the pandemic eases, they'll likely want to better manage their experiences in stores and
restaurants by paying closer attention to crowds and cleanliness, said Carl Bialik, data science editor at Yelp.

- "Until now, people just wanted a seat at that neighborhood restaurant and it didn't matter what was around them," he said. "Now there will be a spotlight on how establishments are adhering to health standards. That's going to be more relevant than ever before."

**Reality check:** In many cases, the COVID-19 outbreak will accelerate trends that were already underway. The new normal may, in fact, feel pretty normal.

- "At the end of the day cities shall remain, they just may transform into something a little bit different," said Phillip Kash, Partner at HR&A Advisors, an urban planning firm.

*by AXIOUS*

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

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**Member Firm Offering Free Webinars to Earn PDHs**

We are all aware of how recent events have resulted in the cancellations of conferences and educational seminars around the country, but don't let this put your professional development on hold. Bartlett & West is hosting a series of **free**, live webinars the next 3 Thursdays in April. These webinars are a great opportunity to engage with subject matter experts as they share their knowledge and expertise. In addition, when you attend a LIVE webinar you can receive Professional Development Hour (PDH) credits. Past webinars are available ON DEMAND, but do not include PDH credits. Here is a list of webinars in April:

- **Thursday, April 16 at 11 am CST**: Benefits and Opportunities of Biogas Treatment Upgrade Projects
- **Thursday, April 23 at 2 pm CST**: Planning for Aging Infrastructure Needs with Your Water Rates
- **Thursday, April 30 at 11 am CST**: Future of Technology in the Rail Industry

To learn more about each webinar and to register, click the Register Now button below. Can't make the live webinar? Register anyway and they'll send you the recorded webinar to watch at your convenience. However, attendance at the live webinar session is required to receive PDH credit. Seating is limited, so make sure to register today to claim your spot.

[Register Now](#)

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**New RFPs/RFQs on ACEC/MO Website**

The ACEC/MO website has been updated to include **new** RFPs/RFQs we recently received from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). To see the all new RFPs/RFQs we posted, please go to our [website](#). We update this page on our website as soon as we receive new information to post so please check it often for new RFPs/RFQs.
New St. Louis Construction Guideline for Review

Members of the Construction Alliance (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 complete set of Construction Guidelines are housed on the AGC of Missouri’s website under the Member Resources tab. The link below the new featured Construction Guideline for review, comments, thoughts, suggested updates or edits, etc. We encourage you to send your thoughts to Denise Hasty.

- **Unit Prices for Variable Quantities**

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**NOTABLE EVENTS**

**Update on ACEC Virtual Convention and Introducing the ACEC Research Institute**

**Update on ACEC’s Virtual Convention:**
ACEC’s team has been hard at work developing a virtual convention that not only accomplishes the necessary actions their bylaws demand, but also offers useful information to help you navigate the COVID-19 crisis. ACEC will hold its Board of Directors meeting virtually on Saturday, April 25th from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Eastern. This meeting will be open to the full ACEC membership. Stay tuned for information on how you will be able to take part in the meeting and for announcements on other convention activities.

**The ACEC Research Institute:**
The work our member firms do sustains life, connects our communities and overcomes challenges that enable our country to grow and thrive. Even when faced with monumental challenges like the crisis before us, we adapt to find new ways to express our essential value to society. ACEC’s role in all this is to be your voice to influencers, policymakers and potential clients. They’ve carried your message through direct advocacy, political engagement, media and education. Today, ACEC National is pleased to announce that they added a new weapon to their arsenal – research through the formation of the ACEC Research Institute. The Institute replaces the Council’s former Research and Management Foundation and will strive to become the leading source of knowledge and thought leadership for creating a more sustainable, safe, secure and technically advanced built environment.

The ACEC Research Institute’s mission is clear and precise. It will deliver knowledge and business strategies that guide and elevate the engineering industry by:

- Identifying, funding and providing industry wide research, forecasts, and trend analysis.
- Capitalizing on the rapidly changing nature of technology and society to ensure a sustainable engineering industry.
- Promoting the engineering profession’s essential value to society.
- Inspiring future generations to solve the world’s most challenging problems through engineering.
To lead this effort, the Institute will be overseen by a Board of Directors that is reflective of our industry and is designed to strike an important balance between firm size and practice area. We firmly believe that the ACEC Research Institute will be a game changer for the Council. The Institute has already begun its mission in the form of the COVID-19 impact surveys. We look forward to announcing more exciting research that the Institute is already working on, so stay tuned.

MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR

Member News

HG Consult, Inc. announced that Buddy D. Desai, PE has joined the firm as Senior Project Manager and Vice President. Buddy is based in St. Louis, Missouri. Buddy brings to the firm a long and successful history in serving transportation clients throughout the Midwest, especially in his home state of Missouri and in southern Illinois. As a respected transportation infrastructure leader, over his 30-year career, Buddy has successfully overseen NEPA planning and design services for highway, bridge, and transit projects. The firm also announced that Dave Kocour has been promoted to the position of Vice President. With his promotion, Dave continues to lead our Planning Department and manage some of our firm’s highest profile planning projects. Since coming to Hg Consult nearly six years ago, Dave has brought to the firm a long and successful history of serving infrastructure clients predominantly in the Midwest. Dave is an environmental scientist/planner with over 30 years of experience with regards to infrastructure projects (e.g., roadways, bridges, aviation, transit, power, stormwater, disaster relief).

Calendar of Events

May 13-14 -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Louis - tentative
June 7-9 -- ACEC Midwest States Conference, Branson
June 11-12 -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Independence - tentative
August 21 -- ACEC/MO Summer Meeting, Columbia
October 14 -- ACEC/MO EEA Project Entry Deadline
October 19 -- ACEC/MO 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Columbia
October 28-31 -- ACEC Fall Conference, San Diego, CA
November 4 -- ACEC/MO EEA Judging
November 13 -- ACEC/MO Fall Meeting, Columbia

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