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


- **Liaison Committee News** *(Missouri Department of Transportation - St. Louis District Liaison Committee Meeting)*

- **Industry News** *(Kansas City Corps of Engineers Letter of Support; Next Federal Stimulus Could Include Infrastructure Funding)*

- **Notable Events** *(ACEC/MO 2020 Future Leaders Academy Moved to Later Dates; Status of ACEC Midwest States Conference)*

- **Member Information & Calendar** *(Member News; Calendar of Events)*

If there is something you would like us to include in the weekly updates, please contact the **ACEC/MO office**. We would love to hear your thoughts. Thanks!

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**COVID-19 NEWS**

**ACEC Missouri & ACEC Updates on COVID-19**

ACEC Missouri started sending out a separate publication on COVID-19 News & Updates. We will be sending this out as often as necessary to keep members informed on COVID-19. There is an abundance of information that is available on ACEC’s [website](#) as well as the ACEC/MO [website](#) to help members and member firms to get through this trying time.

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**ACEC Free-to-Members COVID-19 Webinar on April 7**

ACEC is hosting a free-to-members webinar on 'You Are Not Alone: Tools for Living and Working in Uncertain Times'. The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 AM CST. Personal resilience is a matter of preparation, self-awareness,
and the ability to know what you need. Right now, all of us are facing - to varying degrees - radical change and unprecedented uncertainty. Join this crash course in managing our energy, our attention, and our emotions through this tumultuous time. The webinar will be recorded, and access to the recording will be shared on the ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center the day after the webinar takes place. The presenter for the webinar will be Geordie Aitken, Aitken Leadership Group. To register, click HERE or on the graphic below.

ACEC Engineering Influence Podcast on COVID-19

ACEC has begun a new series of coronavirus-related interviews through their Engineering Influence podcast program. We invite you to listen to Steve Hall review the CARES Act, and Sage Policy Group’s Anirban Basu discuss the macroeconomic outlook for the nation. ACEC is also continuing to post on their Last Word. If you haven’t subscribed to the blog, we encourage you to do so here.

Keeping Cool: Investment Strategy vs. Reaction

After losing ground in 2018, U.S. stocks had a banner year in 2019, with the S&P 500 gaining almost 29% – the highest annual increase since 2013. It’s too early to know how 2020 will turn out, but it’s been rocky so far, and you can count on market swings to challenge your patience as an investor. The trend was steadily upward last year, but there were downturns along the way, including a single-day drop of almost 3% on August 14. That plunge began with bad economic news from Germany and China that triggered a flight to the relative safety of U.S. Treasury securities, driving the yield on the 10-year Treasury note below the 2-year note for the first time since 2007. A yield curve inversion has been a reliable predictor of past recessions and spooked the stock market. By the following day, however, the market was back on the rise. It’s possible that a yield curve inversion may no longer be a precursor to a recession. Still, larger concerns about the economy are ongoing, and this incident illustrates the pitfalls of overreacting to economic news. If you were also spooked on August 14, 2019, and sold some or all of your stock positions, you might have missed out on more than 13% equity market growth over the rest of the year.

Tune Out the Noise
The media generates news 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can check the market and access the news anywhere you carry a mobile device. This barrage of information might make you feel that you should buy or sell investments in response to the latest news, whether it’s a market drop or an unexpected geopolitical event. This is a natural response, but it’s not wise to react emotionally to market swings or to news that you think might affect the market.

**Long-Term Commitment**

“Time in the market” is generally more effective than trying to time the market. An investor who remained fully invested in the U.S. stock market over the past 30 years would have received almost triple the return of an investor who missed the best 12 months of market performance.

**Stay the Course**

Consider this advice from John Bogle, famed investor and mutual fund industry pioneer: “Stay the course. Regardless of what happens to the markets, stick to your investment program. Changing your strategy at the wrong time can be the single most devastating mistake you can make as an investor.” This doesn’t mean you should never buy or sell investments. However, the investments you buy and sell should be based on a sound strategy appropriate for your risk tolerance, financial goals, and time frame. And a sound investment strategy should carry you through market ups and downs. It can be tough to keep cool when you see the market dropping or to control your exuberance when you see it shooting upward. But overreacting to market movements or trying to “time the market” by guessing at future direction may create additional risk that could negatively affect your long-term portfolio performance. All investments are subject to market fluctuation, risk, and loss of principal. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. If not held to maturity, they could be worth more or less than the original amount paid.

*provided by ACEC Retirement Trust*

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**LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS**

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**Missouri Department of Transportation - St. Louis District Liaison Committee Meeting**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (St. Louis District) / ACECMO Liaison Committee met on March 3, 2020 at the MoDOT St. Louis District office. Members in attendance were Tim Broyles, Jason Dohrmann, Mike Dolde, Jo Emerick, J.R. Landeck and J.C. Murray. After introductions, they discussed the following items:

- MoDOT Staff Changes
- Missouri Utility and Private Line Location and Relocation – Code of State Regulation
- On-Call Update
- Major Project Updates
- St. Louis District Upcoming Consultant Opportunities & Funding Outlook
- Potential Change for Consultant & PM Mixer to Late Spring.

The next meeting date has not yet been scheduled. To see the complete minutes from the meeting, go to [ACEC/MO's website](http://acec.mo.org).
INDUSTRY NEWS

Kansas City Corps of Engineers Letter of Support

The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers recently provided a letter supporting State and Federal partners in response to COVID-19. They will continue the execution of their Civil Works, Military Programs, and Environmental Missions through this crisis. They have shifted to a predominantly virtual work environment except where a physical presence is essential. We anticipate that they will experience some inefficiencies and impacts to execution that may cause delays in some projects. They are working to prioritize their workload and will actively communicate impacts to all their partners.

In addition to COVID-19 response, levee rehabilitation remains the top priority for the district. They will proceed with ongoing levee construction contracts and continue to award new levee rehabilitation contracts in the coming months. Their commitment to levee rehabilitation through contracts, expert advice, and quality assurance remains steadfast. To see the full letter of support, click HERE.

Next Federal Stimulus Could Include Infrastructure Funding

As Congress is in conversations on a fourth COVID-19 response package, it could include massive new infrastructure investment to aid the economic recovery. There are infrastructure needs across our country that directly relate to how they are proceeding with the coronavirus. Infrastructure investment has traditionally been a bipartisan issue for Congress. Although Congress is on scheduled recess until April 20, they could return to the Capitol quickly, if needed, to vote on legislation.

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) co-chaired Transportation Construction Coalition wrote a letter to Congress urging them to consider reauthorizing surface transportation programs to stabilize and grow the economy in the near and long-term. ARTBA plans to continue working with Congress and the Trump Administration to ensure the interests of the transportation construction industry are addressed in future economic response laws.

NOTABLE EVENTS

ACEC/MO's 2020 Future Leaders Academy Moved to Later Dates

ACEC/MO's Future Leaders Academy has two sessions left for the 2020 program. Due to the coronavirus, we have moved the final two sessions. The April program has been tentatively moved to May 13-14 in St. Louis and the May program has been tentatively moved to June 11-12 in Independence. We are working to finalize speakers for the new dates and will
post the new detailed program once we have everything finalized. We know there is uncertainty with the coronavirus pandemic so if we have to make additional changes to the program, we'll post that on our website and will also mention it in the Weekly Update.

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**Status of ACEC Midwest States Conference**

As of this time, the ACEC Midwest State Conference (joint meeting with Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma) is still on as scheduled for **June 7-9, 2020** at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson. We are working with the hotel to have back-up dates if needed. Below is a tentative schedule but we are still working on finalizing details for the meeting. We hope to have registration information ready to send out soon. Please put these dates on your calendar on plan to join us in Branson.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

**Sunday, June 7**  
3:00 p.m. - Registration  
5:00 p.m. - Welcoming Reception Cruise on Landing Princess

**Monday, June 8**  
7:30 a.m. - Breakfast / Program on Transfer Leadership, Sell, or Shutter - Options Available to Firms in Transition (Speaker: Michael Hein, AIA, Chief Executive Officer, The HFW Companies, LLC)  
9:00 a.m. - CEO Roundtables (large & small)  
12:00 p.m. - Lunch / Speakers: Lydia R. Zabrycki, Director, ACEC Retirement Trust Education; and Lee Ann Wheeler, ACEC Business Insurance Trust  
1:45 p.m. - ACEC State Meetings (Kansas, Missouri & Oklahoma)  
6:00 p.m. - Multi-State Officers / Directors Reception & Banquet (includes entertainment)

**Tuesday, June 9**  
7:30 a.m. - Breakfast / Program on Perpetual Pavements – A Long Term Solution (Speaker: Amy Miller, P.E., National Director, Asphalt Pavement Alliance)  
9:00 a.m. - Mission and Activities of the Engineering Change Lab Seminar (Speaker: Michael P. McMeekin, P.E., Executive Director, ECL-USA)

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**MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR**

**Member News**

*Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.* would like to welcome **Rachel Shulman**, their new Senior Consultant of **Air Service Development**. With over 12 years of airline industry experience as both an air service development consultant in various leadership roles and as an airline network planner, she is a welcome addition to their team. She brings a unique set of skills both in terms of analytical approach and the ability to effectively communicate a client’s story whether to community leadership or airline decision makers.
Calendar of Events

**May 13-14** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Louis - tentative
**June 11-12** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Independence - tentative
**May 15** -- Last Day of 2020 Legislative Session
**June 7-9** -- ACEC Midwest States Conference, Branson
**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](http://www.acecmo.org).