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


- **Industry News** *(EPA Releases Draft Criteria to Help Protect Lakes and Reservoirs; House Committee Approves Transportation Bill - ACEC Defeats Harmful Insourcing Amendments; USACE Task Order Selection Survey Results and ACEC Action Taken; St. Louis Construction Guideline of the Month)*

- **Notable Events** *(The Future of Remote Design Collaboration: What Mid-Size Teams Need to Know Webinar; 2020 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Postponed Until Fall; ACEC Offers Two Member Roundtables; Plan Now to Attend ACEC/MO's Summer Meeting on August 21)*

- **Member Information & Calendar** *(Reminders; Member Firms Ranked in CS&E Top 100 MEP Giants 2019 List; Member News; Calendar of Events; Quote of the Week)*

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: 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**

**MoDOT / Industry COVID-19 Weekly Update**

The Missouri Department of Transportation held a COVID-19 Industry Meeting on June 17, 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 (shared work external talking points; and letter template from Resident Engineers to Industry regarding 12-week work plan)
- Shared Work Program
- Contract Status
- Traffic Data
- Federal Infrastructure
- Director's Update
- Roundtable Discussion.
ACEC Research Institute Roundtable Experts Optimistic About Impact of Technology on Engineering

A roundtable of engineering futurists said Thursday the industry’s future will require more engineers, be more decentralized, and see an enhanced appreciation of infrastructure as a key component to the nation’s quality of life. The ACEC Research Institute sponsored “The Impact of Technology on Engineering” roundtable, which featured Jose Luis Blanco, partner, McKinsey & Company; Mike Haley, vice president of Research, Autodesk; Chris Luebkeman, director strategic foresight, office of the president, ETH Zurich; and Heather Wishart-Smith, senior vice president, technology and innovation, Jacobs. More than 250 ACEC members listened to the discussion and submitted questions.

The panelists addressed a wide variety of issues including the near-and long-term impacts of new technology; future changes in industry culture and practice; and the need for adapting to and retaining new engineering graduates. Haley said that the rapid industry adoption of new technology will increase the need for more engineers. “I believe we’re going to need many more engineers as we further open up the world to all kinds of possibilities with all these new tools,” he said.

Blanco emphasized how advanced technology will enhance project design. “I think if we have more data, we have more transparency and then our designs are going to be much more outcome-driven and we’re going to be able to provide better service to our owners.” Wishart-Smith, however, cautioned in an industry focused on innovation, that “not all technology is innovation and not all innovation is technology,” she said. “Despite new technology, you still have to trust the people applying the technology.” She also sees a more diverse future engineering industry. “Study after study shows that inclusive and diverse companies and organizations perform better. It allows us as an industry to cast the widest net to draw the widest possible pool of candidates. Once you achieve that critical mass of diversity, that’s when you can get the most benefit from diversity of thought.”

Luebkeman believes data management advancements will particularly benefit small firms with improved efficiency and industry importance. “It's all about access. You previously did not have access to first-class knowledge unless you were in a center. We right now are in two different continents and seven different time zones, and yet we're all accessing each other at this moment with almost 300 other people.”

Click [here](#) to stream the roundtable. This was the first of three roundtables sponsored by the Research Institute to look into the future of engineering. The second roundtable, “The Buildings We Live and Work In” will be on June 25 at 3:30 pm ET and will feature expert panelists discussing what lasting impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the design of the commercial, high-rise, healthcare, and mixed-use buildings of the future. Click [here](#) to register.

On July 16 at 1:30 pm ET, the “Funding in the New Normal” roundtable will address how the U.S. economy will recover, what markets will lead the way, and what firms must do to ensure they aren't left behind. Click [here](#) to register.
EPA Releases Draft Criteria to Help Protect Lakes and Reservoirs
by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new, draft ambient water quality criteria recommendations for nutrients in lakes and reservoirs. The agency’s criteria recommendations serve as important resources that states and authorized tribes can use to protect public health, pets, and aquatic life from the adverse effects of excess nutrients in surface waters, including during the summer recreation season.

“Under the Trump Administration, we are working with states, tribes and farmers from across the country to develop a wide range of tools that will reduce excess nutrients in America’s water bodies,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross. “These draft criteria are the first update to EPA’s recommended nutrient criteria in almost 20 years. This flexible approach is based on the latest scientific information and will help States and Tribes protect lakes and reservoirs from harmful algal blooms.”

When finalized, these recommendations will replace EPA’s previously recommended ambient nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs that were published in 2000 and 2001. Using statistical stressor-response relationships that incorporate data collected from approximately 1,800 lakes, the draft criteria recommendations represent the latest scientific knowledge regarding the concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus that are protective of drinking water sources, recreational uses and aquatic life in lakes and reservoirs. EPA developed national statistical models that provide a flexible approach for deriving numeric nutrient criteria. States and authorized tribes can incorporate local data into the national models to help develop numeric nutrient criteria that are consistent with national relationships while accounting for unique local conditions. States, territories and authorized tribes can consider adopting the resulting criteria into their water quality standards but are not compelled to revise existing EPA-approved criteria or total maximum daily load targets.

Under the Trump Administration, EPA is focusing its attention on reducing excess nutrients in the nation’s waters through an all-of-the-above approach, which includes enhanced federal and state coordination, stakeholder engagement, and promoting market-based and other collaborative approaches to water quality improvements. Examples include providing grant funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Farmer to Farmer Cooperative Agreements, hosting an innovative nutrient financing webinar series and national forum, issuing a water quality trading policy memorandum, and co-chairing the Hypoxia Task Force.

EPA is requesting input via public comment for a little over 30 days on the new draft recommendations. For more information, visit: https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/technical-support-numeric-nutrient-water-quality-criteria-development. Contact Us to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

House Committee Approves Transportation Bill - ACEC Defeats Harmful Insourcing Amendments

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved on Thursday the INVEST in America Act, the five-year, $494 billion reauthorization of federal highway, transit, and rail programs.
During the mark-up of the bill, ACEC worked to oppose two problematic amendments filed by Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) that would limit the ability of State Departments of Transportation to partner with private sector firms. One amendment would have mandated a cost-benefit analysis before contracting out any engineering or design services project more than $100,000. A second amendment would require that only public sector employees perform construction inspections and limit the ability to use private firms for those services. ACEC communicated strong objections to both amendments, and rallied ACEC Member Organizations and Member Firms to reach out to their representatives on the committee to explain how disruptive these policies would be for agencies and firms. Both amendments were withdrawn.

ACEC supports committee passage of the bill, which will be the centerpiece of a broader infrastructure package to be considered by the full House the week of June 29.

Click here to view a letter from ACEC President Linda Bauer Darr outlining the Council’s views on the bill and the Garamendi amendments. ACEC member firm representatives are encouraged to continue to use the R3 advocacy website to contact their Members of Congress and Senators in support of an infrastructure-based economic recovery agenda.

**USACE Task Order Selection Survey Results and ACEC Action Taken**

*by Dan Hilton, ACEC Director of Procurement Advocacy & International Affairs*

This spring, the Army Corps of Engineers introduced new guidance for the Task Order (TO) selection process for multiple award architect and engineer (AE) contracts. This guidance included requirements for Task Order Requirement Notifications (TORNs) and Task Order Questionnaires (TOQs).

ACEC, led by the Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy (FAPA) Committee, spent much of 2019 addressing varied Corps actions to compete all TOs, including SF330 resubmissions, and urging the Corps to take a different approach, as the changes added more costs and time to both industry and the Corps. The changes being proposed were also generally opposed by Corps personnel that you and your firms deal with on a regular basis, however, they were being pushed by legal counsel within the Corps.

ACEC has written the Corps twice expressing our concerns and invested in a legal analysis arguing that the Corps’ current process was consistent with the Brooks Act and the proposed changes were not necessary. We presented that analysis in person following a meeting between the FAPA Committee Chair and Vice-Chair and Dr. Christine Altendorf, Chief of Engineering and Construction. The resulting changes agreed to by the Corps included limiting response length to three pages, making the [Task Order Questionnaire] optional, not mandatory, and limiting the response time to five business days.

After issuance of the new guidance, as many have experienced, Districts have continued to go about this their own way, with little consistency across the Corps. We have heard from many of you that continue to object to the changes. As a result, we surveyed our membership to give us a better understanding and measurement of these concerns. Some of those findings include:

- While this process was determined to be optional, almost 84% of respondents believe they would be disadvantaged by not providing updated information.
- With limited exceptions, most respondents indicate that it takes at least three (3) days to respond to a TOQ. With several indicating it takes as long as 10 – 14 days.
- Nearly every participant indicated it would lead to increased overhead costs to the firm.
- There is little consistency across Districts in both length of response time and maximum size.
- For more than 75% of the firms who responded, the level of effort expended exceeds 20 labor hours.
Response times after submitting a TOQ are extremely long. Firms have reported submitting one in late January and as yet have not heard anything. Another was submitted in early May and was informed by the Corps District that they have not even started reviewing the submittals a month later.

Last week ACEC sent a letter to the Army and Department of Defense, as they have taken an interest in learning of industry's concerns. We have also learned that they have asked the Corps to provide them with data showing claimed savings achieved in time and costs. We are in the process of scheduling a virtual summer meeting for the FAPA Committee and intend to have this and the Corps on our agenda.

St. Louis Construction Guideline of the Month

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 Construction Guidelines are housed on the AGC of Missouri's website under the Member Resources tab. We invite you to review the latest guideline via the link below and encourage you to send your thoughts on this guideline. You may send your comments to Denise Hasty.

Changes in the Work

NOTABLE EVENTS

The Future of Remote Design Collaboration: What Mid-Size Teams Need to Know Webinar

Bentley Systems and ENR are bringing together industry leaders and experts to discuss how they are optimizing the world’s infrastructure by “going digital.” They are hosting a webinar on July 23, 2020 at 2:00 pm EST entitled "The Future of Remote Design Collaboration: What Mid-Size Teams Need to Know."

As remote work becomes the new normal, today’s top design project leaders are adopting new digital strategies to keep their teams connected to information and each other. This is particularly important for small and mid-size teams, who need to remain as efficient as possible in an increasingly competitive industry.

Join this webinar to hear ENR talk with a panel of practicing experts from small and mid-size teams on how they are overcoming remote work challenges to deliver projects faster, and with less risk and rework.

Attendees will learn key best practices, including:

- Aligning teams and content in shared environments
- Automating and streamlining common collaborative workflows
- Better tracking and managing project tasks and communications
- Embracing digital workflows to overcome remote work challenges.

Live Q&A with expert speakers will follow the presentation. If you're busy on the live days, sign up anyway. You can play back the scheduled webinar anytime you like. To register for the webinar, click here.
2020 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Postponed Until Fall

ACEC has rescheduled the 2020 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala to November 21, 2020 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19 pandemic, however, the gala may have to be moved to a virtual event on a date to be determined.

ACEC will honor any participant seats and sponsorships already purchased. For questions about registration or refunds for the rescheduled event, contact Daisy Nappier.

The 2020 Gala will still honor a record 203 entries representing engineering excellence from throughout the nation and the world. Recognition of all award winners, including the top winners—20 Honor Awards, 16 Grand Awards and the prestigious “Grand Conceptor Award” for the year’s most outstanding overall engineering achievement--will make it a night to remember.

ACEC Offers Two Member Roundtables

ACEC will host complimentary virtual member roundtables for firms in the Private/Vertical market sector and for medium-sized firms (51-200 employees).

The Private/Vertical Roundtable will be on June 22, 3:30-4:40 pm ET. The session will provide a platform to share ideas and discuss the issues facing your business, including disruptions and opportunities in different 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; and any other member concerns regarding the private/vertical markets.

On June 26, 12:00-1:00 pm ET, the Medium Firm Roundtable will offer an opportunity for members with a platform to discuss the issues facing mid-sized engineering firms, as well as share ideas on how our industry can help our communities during the crisis.

Registration for each program is limited to 80 participants, so sign up soon. Click HERE to register for the Private/Vertical Roundtable and HERE to register for the Medium Firm Roundtable.

Plan Now to Attend ACEC/MO's Summer Meeting on August 21

ACEC/MO's Summer Meeting & Working Committee Session is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2020 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Columbia. This is the first meeting of our new fiscal year. Below is a draft agenda for the day. At this time, we plan to have an in-person meeting but we'll keep you updated if that changes. If we don't have it in person, then we'll have it virtually. Be looking for registration information soon. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us.

AGENDA:
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. -- Registration
9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. -- Committee Meetings: Business Practices & Governmental Affairs
10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. -- BREAK
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. -- Committee Meetings: Engineering Excellence, Environmental & Transportation
12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. -- Lunch / Speaker: TBD
1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. -- Board of Directors / Membership Meeting

MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR

Reminders...

ACEC/MO member firms paying their dues on a quarterly or semiannual basis must have all dues paid and in the ACEC/MO office by June 30, 2020 (the last day of our fiscal year). Please contact ACEC/MO staff if you need to discuss payment options.

Member Firms Ranked in CS&E Top 100 MEP Giants 2019 List

Multiple ACEC/MO member firms have the honor of being ranked in the CS&E Top 100 MEP Giants List for 2019. Some offices are headquartered in Missouri (italicized) and some offices are branch offices in Missouri. Below is the list of firms and their rankings. Congratulations to all member firms that made the list!

1 - Jacobs
2 - AECOM
3 - Burns & McDonnell
4 - Stantec, Inc.
5 - Tetra Tech
6 - HDR, Inc.
8 - WSP USA Inc.
14 - IMEG Corp.
57 - CDM Smith
80 - Ross & Baruzzini, Inc.
100 - Farnsworth Group, Inc.

Member News

ABNA Engineering, Inc. is excited to welcome Samuel Ogunmolawa Jr to their team in their Transportation and MEP department. Sam recently graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

Bartlett & West, Inc. is pleased to announce that Maggie Albert joined the firm as a project engineer out of their Jefferson City, MO office.

CDG Engineers is pleased to announce that several people have joined their St. Louis staff. An integral part of our Utility Services Department, Anand Srivastav, PE joined the firm in January of this year. Tina Brewington, a roadway and highway design specialist, has joined the Civil Department. In March they welcomed Felita Hawkins as an Accounting Assistant, and in May and June, respectively, Alexandria Hart (intern) and Mahir Kablic started in the Structural Department. Finally, in early June, Doug Ryterski (intern) joined the Electrical Engineering Department. We are also very excited to welcome back Cache Henley, who is intern in the Design Technologies Department, and to announce that Clayton Port has transitioned from intern to a full-time staff member in the Mechanical Engineering Department.
Calendar of Events

**August 17-18** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, St. Louis
**August 21** -- ACEC/MO Summer Meeting, Columbia
**September 1-2** -- ACEC/MO Future Leaders Academy, Independence
**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](#).

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**Quote of the Week**

"Defeat is a state of mind. No one is ever defeated until defeat has been accepted as reality"

- *Bruce Lee*