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

- **COVID-19 News** ('Next Coalition' of Leading U.S. Engineering and Construction Firms Challenges Industry to Enhance Health, Safety Amid COVID-19 Pandemic)

- **Liaison Committee News** (Missouri Department of Transportation (Central & Northeast Districts) Liaison Committee Meeting)

- **Industry News** (Carrato and Carragher Introduce the ACEC Research Institute on Engineering Influence Podcast; Prepare Now for ACEC/MO's Engineering Excellence Awards Project Competition; MoDOT LPA Advisory Committee)

- **Notable Events** (Register for FREE ACEC Midwest States Conference Webinar)

- **Member Information & Calendar** (Reminders; 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!

**COVID-19 NEWS**

**NEXT Coalition’ of Leading U.S. Engineering and Construction Firms Challenges Industry to Enhance Health, Safety Amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

‘Construction Safety Challenge’ seeks rapidly deployable, scalable innovations that address outbreak-related challenges today with an eye towards future. While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced shutdowns of many global businesses, a coalition of leading critical infrastructure and construction companies has banded together to launch the “NEXT Coalition” to promote and share industry safety best practices. Black & Veatch, DPR Construction, Haskell and McCarthy Building Companies are leveraging their deep safety expertise and best practices in a campaign to ensure the well-being of crews and office team members facing complex challenges posed by the coronavirus outbreak.
The coalition seeks to identify and advance processes and technologies most likely to bolster construction safety in response to the "next normal" ushered in by COVID-19. To that end, the coalition of leading construction and design companies is launching the "Construction Safety Challenge," an open call to companies, startups and other innovators with emerging safety solutions that can be quickly deployed and scaled. "This virus, and future pandemics won’t wait for us to catch up," said Steve Edwards, CEO of Black & Veatch. "The NEXT Coalition recognizes the opportunities that our companies’ collective scale and experience create to quickly begin sourcing, testing and launching solutions that can impact construction safety fast. To accomplish that goal, we needed to look outside of our own companies. Hence, the need for the open Challenge."

The NEXT Coalition seeks both new startups and seasoned companies to partner with its members to implement products and processes that will enhance health and safety in the field and back office. Submissions must be as close to market-ready as possible, though proof-of-concept/prototype-stage solutions will be considered. Solutions that are chosen may be deployed by coalition members on active projects around the globe. "The need for rapid innovation and implementation in our industry has never been greater," McCarthy Southern California Region President Michael Myers said. "This coalition has joined together to source the best solutions to ensure the safety and sustainability of all of our projects. As we continue to deliver critical infrastructure across the country, our companies have the reach and the resources to move the needle on an industry-wide basis."

To see the full press release by Black & Veatch, click HERE.

LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS

Missouri Department of Transportation (Central & Northeast Districts) Liaison Committee Meeting

The Missouri Department of Transportation (CD&NE) / ACECMO Liaison Committee met on May 27, 2020 by videoconference. ACEC/MO attendees included Rick Bennett, Darrell Eilers, Mike Herleth, Aaron McVicker, Michael Purol, Jeff Smith, Bruce Wylie and Dawn Hill. They started the meeting off with introductions and then discussed the below items.

COVID-19 Update and Critical Issues
MoDOT is assessing fiscal impacts and future trends. Their operational activities are continuing as planned. The STIP update, which is normally presented to the Commission this time of the year, will not occur. MoDOT will continue working from the 2020 to 2024 STIP. New consultant contracts are mostly being placed on hold and MoDOT has delayed $60M in estimated construction projects scheduled for May and June lettings.

District and Central Office Updates
- Northeast District: The district is still issuing a few MOU’s for consultant services to assist with projects. The Highway 17 and I-70 project is moving forward into final design. The I-70 Climbing Lanes project and Mineola Hill is anticipated to start in July. The FARM Bridge Program is proceeding but project schedule could be delayed.
- Central District: Recent changes to staff include Mike Schupp to Construction and Materials Engineer, Kirsten Munck as the Area Engineer for Boone County Region, Mike Todd as District Health and Safety Manager, and James Beattie has taken over as Project Manager duties for projects in the SE portion of the district. Long-term projects that were anticipated to start have been paused and activities to review unfunded needs with the district planning partners have been placed on hold. The Rocheport Bridge project is proceeding as planned.
• **Central Office:** District conducts weekly calls with various industry groups on COVID-19. ACEC/MO and AGC have been meeting with MoDOT to address long range goals and planning for the use of design/build and other alternative contracting methods. MoDOT is starting to use a consultant to process Request for Environmental Reviews on LPA projects. MoDOT is also working on providing access for consultants to the MoDOT e-file system for project documents.

**Professional Services Committee (PSC) Update**

MoDOT is making several ongoing process modifications in the PSC to speed up the process. Modifications include: Districts must request to solicit for a consultant; No longer have to submit the letters of interest received at the District to the PSC; No longer have to submit scoring of the consultants or the consultant selected to the PSC; and Still must get approval to execute a contract with a consultant. MoDOT will be requesting consultants to speed up the process for submitting scope and fee proposals from 4 weeks to 2 weeks.

The next meeting will be held sometime in August 2020. To see the complete minutes from this meeting, go to ACEC/MO’s [website](https://www.acec-mo.org).

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Carrato and Carragher Introduce the ACEC Research Institute on Engineering Influence Podcast**

ACEC recently announced the development of the ACEC Research Institute, which is the research arm of the Council. We’ve never really had a dedicated organization that actually took an analytical look at the industry and trends that are guiding the engineering industry as we move forward into a world that is based on data technology. On the latest Engineering Influence podcast, ACEC Research Institute Chair John Carrato of Benesch and Vice-Chair Michael Carragher of VHB discuss the organization’s mission, vision, and future. Click [HERE](https://www.acec-mo.org) to listen to the podcast.

**Prepare Now for ACEC/MO's Engineering Excellence Awards Project Competition**

All ACEC/MO member firms will be receiving an email announcement soon for the annual Engineering Excellence Competition. The deadline to submit project entries in the state competition is **October 19, 2020**. The judging is set for **November 10, 2020**. All project entries will be submitted online through ACEC/MO’s EEA Project Entry Portal.

Start planning now to enter ACEC/MO's Annual EEA Project Competition!

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**MoDOT LPA Advisory Committee**

The MoDOT LPA Advisory Committee had a virtual meeting on May 21st. Consultant representatives in attendance included Ramin Ashrafzadeh, Billy Cobb, Andrew Eckhart, Todd Kempker, Andy Macias, Linda Moen and Kim Pemberton. Below are some notes from that meeting.

On March 2, MoDOT posted the new LPA Consultant on-call (prequal) list showing consultants who are available to provide services for the LPA’s in several categories. You can review the list at [www.modot.org/lpa-call-list](https://www.modot.org/lpa-call-list).
Other MoDOT suggestions/information for LPA projects:

- Submit project RER’s ASAP to get it in their system.
- Don’t submit a section 106 review app directly to SHPO until MoDOT tells you that your project does need it (sometimes MoDOT already has the 106 covered).
- Olsson was hired by MoDOT to do LPA environmental reviews T&E, 4f, 6f, etc. for SW, KC, SL Districts; Cultural Resource Analysts is their sub doing 106 reviews. These consultants have MoDOT email addresses. Matt Burcham, Bree McMurray and Jo Dent will continue to work on some on-going projects in SW, KC, SL and all projects in NE, NW (Jo) and CE, SE (Matt).
- Field staff need to have a safety plan (COVID-19 specific) – for LPA projects and for MoDOT projects – this applies to survey, field checks, environmental reviews, etc. For example, your plan should include having face masks and hand sanitizer on-site in addition to field PPE (boots, hard hats, vests, safety glasses).
- FHWA Every Day Counts website has some virtual public involvement best practices – this is good for all projects, not just LPA.
- MoDOT is not staying overnight for any work assignments, and they are not doing any in-person training for sure through the summer.
- Gidget Koestner now works for the Missouri LTAP team: Gidget is the first ever local Field Liaison for the state of Missouri’s new Safety Circuit Rider Program.

This initiative is funded by Federal Highway Administration with a State Transportation Innovation Councils (STIC) Incentive Program grant. The SCR will provide assistance in identifying local safety concerns, implementing low-cost counter measures, and providing guidance to apply for additional funding where warranted to Local Public Agencies (LPA) with limited or no in-house transportation safety engineering resources.
Member News

**Anderson Engineering, Inc.** is honored and excited to be a part of the *Springfield Business Journal’s* Dynamic Dozen class of 2020. The firm came in 8th place among the 12 fastest growing companies in southwest Missouri.

**Cole & Associates, Inc.** announced that **Eric Morff**, P.E., is the newest shareholder of the firm.

**Horner & Shifrin, Inc.** announced the following promotions: **Ramin Ashrafzadeh**, P.E., to Associate Vice President, Assistant Regional Manager; and **April Giesmann**, P.E., to Associate Vice President, Business Unit Leader.

Calendar of Events

- **June 9** -- ACEC/MO Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
- **June 9** -- ACEC Midwest States Conference Webinar: An Overview of Insurance Coverage for COVID-19 Impacts
- **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](https://acecmo.org).

Quote of the Week

"A true leader is one who is humble enough to admit their own mistakes."