September 11, 2020

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

- **Committee & Liaison Committee News** (Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) Liaison Committee Meeting; ACEC/MO’s Diversity, Engineering Excellence, Environmental and Transition Committee Meetings)

- **Industry News** (ACEC Legislative Alert: Engineering Industry Priorities for Economic Relief Package; A/E Employment Surges, But State of Industry Remains Mixed; St. Louis Construction Guideline of the Month; U.S. DOT Rolls Out National Freight Transportation Plan; ACEC and Industry Coalition Call for FAST Act Extension, Supplemental State DOT Funding; Asset Management Prepares Organizations for Unexpected Events)

- **Notable Events** (Highlights from ACEC/MO’s Summer Meeting; Timely Claim Reporting and Why It Matters Webinar; Confident Presence for Networking Virtual or In-Person Webinar; ACEC 2020 Fall Conference is Going Virtual; 2021 EEA Project Competition - Entries Due October 19th; ACEC/MO’s 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament; ACEC/MO’s Fall Meeting on November 13 Going Virtual)

- **Member Information & Calendar** (More Member Renewals for 2020-21; State and National PAC Contributions Continue to Exceed Expectations; 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: Bruce Wylie (BruceWylie@acecmo.org) or Dawn Hill (DawnHill@acecmo.org). We would love to hear from you!

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**COMMITTEE & LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS**

**Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) Liaison Committee Meeting**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (Southwest District) / ACECMO Liaison Committee held a Zoom meeting on August 24, 2020. Members in attendance were Becky Baltz, Neil Brady, Mike Herleth, Vicki LaRose, Steve Prange, Chip Touzinsky, and Frank Weatherford. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- District Updates / Staffing Changes
- Projects
- Key Initiatives
- LPA Funding
- Other Items.
ACEC/MO's Diversity, Engineering Excellence, Environmental, and Transition Committee Meetings

Four of ACEC/MO's committees recently met separate from our 2020 Summer Meeting. Below are photos from each of the committee meetings.


ACEC/MO's Engineering Excellence Committee held a Zoom Meeting on September 2, 2020. In attendance were (l to r) Mike Banashek, Dawn Hill, Marc Alper, Tawn Nugent, Vicki LaRose, Dan Meckes, Jeff Smith, Rick Bennett, Megan Wiskur, Todd Thalmann, John Zimmerman, Bruce Wylie, Andrew Potthast, Raymond Okuagu, Buddy Desai, and Jean LaKemper.
ACEC/MO's Environmental Committee held a Zoom Meeting on August 27, 2020. In attendance were (l to r) Elke Boyd, Dawn Hill, Bruce Wylie, Chris Bergmann, Scott Perkins, Todd Dablemont, Colleen Connor, Chris Burns, Vicki LaRose, Megan Wiskur, Dennis Stith, Tony O'Malley, Tom Gredell, James Dutt, Lindsey Henry, Marsia Geldert-Murphy, Nicole Adewale, and Laura Rightler.

ACEC/MO's Transition Committee held a Zoom Meeting on August 19, 2020. In attendance were (l to r) Tim Ross, Dawn Hill, Bruce Wylie, Joe Hagerty, Linda Moen, Vicki LaRose, Steve Wells, Bob Gilbert, Dan Meckes, and Mike DeBacker.

INDUSTRY NEWS

ACEC Legislative Alert: Engineering Industry Priorities for Economic Relief Package

As Congress returns to Washington this week to continue negotiations on an economic relief package, ACEC member action is requested to highlight urgent industry priorities. ACEC member firm representatives
have already sent more than 1,400 messages to lawmakers in support of fiscal relief for state and local governments hard hit by pandemic response actions. Join them and take action now to emphasize the need for immediate funding to state departments of transportation, transit agencies, airports, and water utilities whose revenues have declined precipitously. This funding backstop will preserve critical services and keep projects from being cancelled or delayed in 2021.

Other priorities include clarifying the tax treatment of PPP loan proceeds and liability protections for employers that take reasonable efforts to comply with coronavirus standards and regulations. Congressional leaders are still working with the White House on the next economic relief package, so time is of the essence to make sure these priorities are included.

Click here to contact your Representative and Senators.

A/E Employment Surges, But State of Industry Remains Mixed

A/E employment increased by 14,400 jobs in August to 1,484,000. While that total still lags far behind pre-pandemic levels, the large increase points to a strengthening in the fundamentals for the engineering industry. Prior to the pandemic, A/E employment had climbed steadily for several years, reaching a record high employment level of 1,540,300 in February, 2020. March saw a small decline, but then the bottom fell out in April with the loss of nearly 80,000 jobs or more than 5 percent of employees. Through May and June, the industry regained about 11,000 jobs, but then the resurgence of COVID-19 infections caused a small drop in July. The August increase was the biggest in the Professional and Technical Services sector. Other indicators paint a mixed picture about the A/E/C market.

The monthly Dodge Momentum Index, which tracks the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, has climbed for two consecutive months. Within the Index, the Commercial component, which tracks private construction starts, has risen 9 percent from its June low and is just 13 percent below its 2018 peak. The Institutional component, however, which tracks public construction starts has declined for five consecutive months and, according to Dodge, "has yet to hit bottom." The institutional component is now 34% below its recent peak. The AIA Billings Index stabilized in July report, which was released in mid-August, but the score of 40 still indicates a decline in firm billings.

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.

- Partial Lien Waivers
U.S. DOT Rolls Out National Freight Transportation Plan
by Tom Ichniowski, Engineering News Record

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released a plan to map out general priorities and hurdles ahead to deal with changing trends in how the country moves its $52 billion in goods and energy products. The National Freight Strategic Plan, which DOT rolled out September 3, identifies the poor condition of freight transportation infrastructure as a problem and calls for “targeted,” but not quantified, financial assistance to address such things as freight bottlenecks.

Speaking during a virtual meeting to release the freight blueprint, DOT Secretary Elaine Chao said, “This plan establishes a clear vision for the future of our nation’s freight transportation system.” She said it was the first-ever U.S. nationwide plan for freight. [....]

To read the full ENR article, which includes links to the summary plan as well as the full plan, click here.

ACEC and Industry Coalition Call for FAST Act Extension, Supplemental State DOT Funding

ACEC joined an industry coalition of 88 organizations in signing onto letter in support of a one-year extension of the FAST Act transportation programs, which are set to expire on September 30, and supplemental funding for highways and transit agencies to backstop declining revenues. The letter states: “Public agencies continue to face COVID-19 pandemic-induced revenue declines. As a result, state and local entities already delayed or cancelled $8 billion in surface transportation projects, with more on the horizon absent any clear sign of support from the federal government. Failure to approve a one-year extension with increased funding for the purpose of stability would only exacerbate this dire situation.” Specifically, the coalitions call for:

1. A turn-key, one-year extension of the current surface transportation law with increased investment levels;
2. Emergency federal funding for state departments of transportation and public transit agencies—$37 billion and $32 billion, respectively; and
3. Provisions to ensure solvency of the Highway Trust Fund for the duration of the extension at a minimum.

Click here to read the letter.

Asset Management Prepares Organizations for Unexpected Events
by WSP

The pandemic has accentuated the need for organizational resilience in building a better future. WSP’s Dr. Christian (Chris) Roberts discusses how asset management can enable effective response and recovery amid unexpected events; he also addresses how asset management can support equality of access to services and job opportunities. To read the Q&A, click here.
NOTABLE EVENTS

Highlights from ACEC/MO's Summer Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we held our Summer Meeting virtually on August 21, 2020. We had a record turnout for the meeting with 112 members and staff attending. Three committees met in the morning (Business Practices, Governmental Affairs & Transportation), followed by our board of directors / membership meeting in the afternoon.

Timely Claim Reporting and Why It Matters Webinar

We do our best to avoid it, but accidents happen. Join the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) as they discuss the importance of timely claim reporting and how it may affect the overall spend and resolution of claims. The Timely Claim Reporting and Why It Matters Webinar will be held on September 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM. Included in this webinar:

- How a small delay in workers’ compensation claims may increase both medical and indemnity dollars
- Understanding the risk of paying out of pocket for initial treatment for work-related claims
- Discuss how late reporting may increase chances of a 3rd party claim becoming litigated
- How a delay in reporting an auto claim can lead to additional cost and delays to your business-regardless who is at fault
- Understanding the hidden exposures when paying for auto accidents outside of insurance.

To register for the webinar, click here.
Confident Presence for Networking – Virtual or In-Person Webinar

Confident Presence for Networking is a fun and interactive presentation that will be held on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020** from **9:00-11:00 am**. The registration fee to attend is Member: $20 / Non-Member: $30 / CPSM: $15. ACEC/MO members will receive $10 off the registration fee. To get the code for the $10 off, contact **Dawn Hill**. The deadline to register is **Friday, September 18, 2020**. Click **HERE** to register for the webinar.

From start to finish, this is a session designed to help us get clear on what we want when we network and what gets in our way of experiencing that, and then quickly and efficiently takes care of those barriers, replacing awkwardness with ease, uncertainty with clarity, and anxiety with excitement.

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**ACEC 2020 Fall Conference is Going Virtual**

Due to concerns related to travel and large crowds due to COVID, ACEC made the decision to go virtual with their Fall Conference. The virtual event will take place **October 28-30, 2020** and will feature 3 days of high-profile speakers, panel discussions, concurrent sessions, roundtables, networking, and a virtual exhibit hall. It will have all of the same features that were the highlights of our in-person Fall Conference and the added benefit of access to all of the recorded content for 90 days after the live dates. To view the schedule of events, click **here**. To learn about the speakers, click **here**. To register for the conference, click **here**.

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**2021 EEA Project Competition - Entries Due October 19th**

It's time again for our annual project competition! You can begin planning to submit your project entry for the ACEC/MO 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) Competition. The deadline is **Monday, October 19, 2020** for the project entries to be submitted. All project entries must be submitted through ACEC/MO’s online **EEA portal**. Check it out!! You will submit your project entry online. The only items you must submit to the ACEC/MO office is a USB flash drive with all the materials you submitted online and your entry fee.

If you wish to print out the Call for Entries that includes the rules, please go to our **website**. You can also click on a link from that same page to submit your project entries or click on the link above.

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**ACEC/MO’s 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament**

ACEC/MO's 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament is scheduled for **Monday, October 19, 2020**. It will be held at the Columbia Country Club, 2210 N. Country Club Drive, Columbia, MO 65201. Registration begins at 10 am. The cost is **$200** per person and includes green fees, cart, golf balls, prizes, refreshments, and lunch. The deadline to register is September 28, 2020. We will have the necessary safety measures in place so everyone can enjoy a
beautiful day of golf with your peers. To register for the golf tournament, click here and information is also available on our website.

Corporate sponsors are needed to help cover the costs for golf, lunch, prizes, and other miscellaneous expenses. The levels of sponsorship include: Platinum - $1,000; Gold - $750; Silver - $500; and Beverage Cart - $250. For more information on being a sponsor, click here or go to our website. We want to thank the below list of sponsors we have so far.

**Golf Tournament Sponsors:**
- **Gold Sponsors:** Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.; Hg Consult, Inc.
- **Silver Sponsors:** Civil Design, Inc.; Oates Associates, Inc.
- **Beverage Cart Sponsors:** GBA, Inc.

**ACEC/MO’s Fall Meeting on November 13 Going Virtual**

After careful consideration, we made the decision to have the ACEC/MO Fall Meeting on **Friday, November 13th** as a virtual meeting. We hosted our summer meeting last week the same way and it went very well. Below is a tentative schedule of events for the meeting. Once we have the details finalized, we’ll send out registration information. Please put November 13th on your calendar and plan to join us virtually!!

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**
- 8:00 AM - Environmental Committee Meeting
- 9:00 AM - Governmental Affairs / Transportation Joint Committee Meeting
- 10:00 AM - Business Practice Seminar on PPP Issues, Loan Forgiveness, Revenue Recognition Aspects and FAR/OH Rate Concerns
- 12:15 PM - Virtual Lunch Speaker: Steve Hall, ACEC (will give perspective on election results and impact of the results on our legislative priorities going forward)
- 1:15 PM - Board of Directors / Membership Meeting
- 3:00 PM - Networking Happy Hour

**MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR**

**More Member Renewals for 2020-21**

Thank you to the following member firms and associate members that have renewed since posted our report last week. Thank you for your recent membership renewal and your investment in ACEC/MO for the 2020-21 year!

**MEMBER FIRMS:**
- Taliaferro & Browne, Inc.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**
- RubinBrown, LLP
State and National PAC Contributions Continue to Exceed Expectations

As we continue to receive PAC contributions from members for the state and national PAC’s, we are amazed by the support of our member firms, associate members, and member representatives. A huge THANK YOU goes to the following member firms, associate members and member representatives who have already contributed since our report last week. To help us reach our state and national goals, please go to our website for contribution information as well as a current list of state and national PAC contributions.

STATE PAC CONTRIBUTIONS  
(goal: $25,000 / current: $21,234)

**Member Representatives:**
Michael S. DeBacker ● Joseph G. Hagerty ● Bruce Schopp

**Member Firms / Associate Members:**
Farnsworth Group, Inc. ● Oates Associates, Inc.

NATIONAL PAC CONTRIBUTIONS  
(goal: $23,763 / current: $10,291)

**Member Representatives:**
Vicki S. LaRose ● Richard D. Lodewyck ● Dan Meckes

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### Member News

**Anderson Engineering, Inc.** announced that **Steve Graham**, Lab Coordinator in their Joplin, MO office, was recently appointed President of the Board of Directors for Public Water Supply District #3 in McDonald County. He has served on the board for 20 years, serving the community by helping to answer questions and solve any problems for the people that utilize the water service.

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### Calendar of Events

**October 14** -- ACEC/MO EEA Project Entry Deadline  
**October 19** -- ACEC/MO 4th Annual ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Columbia  
**October 28-30** -- ACEC Fall Conference - **virtual**  
**November 10** -- ACEC/MO EEA Judging  
**November 13** -- ACEC/MO Fall Meeting - **virtual**

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