



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING



March Primary Elections See Infrastructure Supporters Re-Elected

March's contested primary elections saw key infrastructure supporters re-elected by wide margins. On the federal level, **Cong Chuy Garcia**—a supporter of IIJA and member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—won his primary election. Also winning contested primaries were IIJA supporters **Cong. Bill Foster** and **Cong. Sean Casten**. **Cong. Mike Bost** defeated failed Governor Candidate Darren Bailey, Bailey had pledged to rollback ReBuild Illinois funding and was a vocal opponent of IIJA.

On the state level, ReBuild Illinois supporters **State Senator Terry Bryant** and **State Representative Dave Severin** cruised to re-election.

Through the course of the last few election cycles, at both the federal and state level, the simple truth has emerged that supporting infrastructure isn't only good policy, it's good politics.



Congress Approves, President Biden Signs FY24 Spending Package

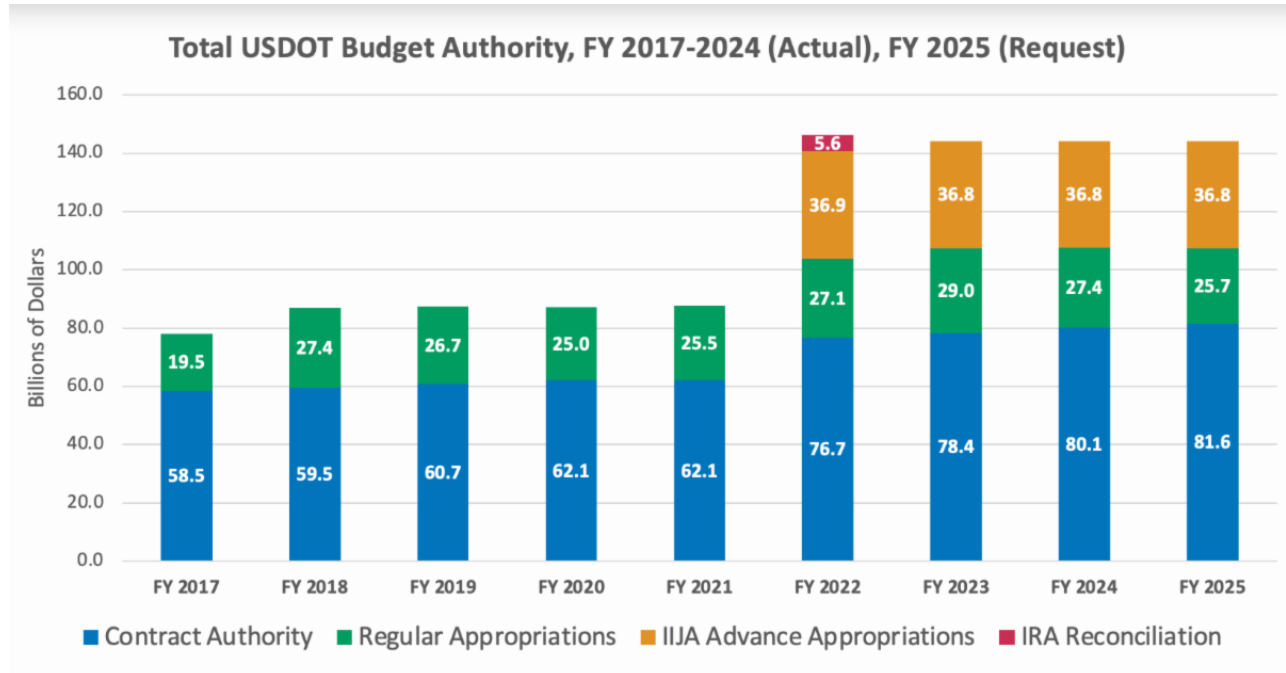
Congress approved the final FY 24 spending package, which went to President Biden for his signature to avoid a partial government shutdown. Earlier in March, lawmakers passed the first series of spending bills, which included the FY 2024 Transportation Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, among other spending packages. Outlined below are some of the spending measures in the THUD bill.

- \$62.9 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which is \$69.8 million above FY 2023 enacted levels.
- \$20 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a figure that is \$1 billion higher than FY 2023 enacted levels. This figure includes \$12.7 billion for air traffic control operations and hiring efforts.
- \$16.6 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which is \$365 million below the FY 2023 enacted level. The bill includes \$2.2 billion for Capital Investment Grants.
- \$2.9 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), which is \$434 million below the FY 2023 enacted levels. The bill reduces funding for Amtrak by \$25 million.
- \$1.2 billion for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and \$940.7

million for the Maritime Administration (MARAD), both of which are above last year's funding levels.

- \$345 million for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, which is less than half of the \$800 million the program received last year. However, when combined with advanced appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the program will be provided \$1.8 billion in FY 2024.

For a graphic example of the impact IIJA has had on the USDOT budget, take a look at this graph.



FHWA Report Shows 2023 VMT Back to Pre-Covid Levels

The Federal Highway Administration released [the year-end 2023 edition of Traffic Volume Trends](#). The data demonstrated that the estimated total vehicle-miles driven in the U.S. last year finally exceeded the pre-COVID 2019 level.

The nationwide estimate is for 3,263.7 billion VMT on the year, an increase of 67.5 billion over the prior year.

| Year | Million VMT |
|------|-------------|
| 2019 | 3,261,772 |
| 2020 | 2,903,622 |
| 2021 | 3,140,088 |
| 2022 | 3,196,192 |
| 2023 | 3,263,739 |

IDOT Makes Appointments



Illinois Department of Transportation

Mr. James Miller will be appointed as the Bureau Chief of Land Acquisition in the Office of Highways Project Implementation for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Mr. Miller earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the University of Illinois. He has more than 34 years of experience at IDOT in District 4 and has been a Land Acquisition Engineer since 2011.

Ms. Debra Lee will be appointed as the Bureau Chief of Small Business Enterprises in the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Ms. Lee earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She has over 24 years of experience at IDOT, most recently serving as the Contract Compliance Officer in District 9.

Thanks,
Kevin Artl
President and CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois

"Engineering Works" Podcast

ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews Steve Hall, Executive Vice President of ACEC. Steve talks about the big wins our industry has seen this year, ACEC's national efforts to advocate for a fix to the Research and Development Tax Credit, what else we may see get done this year, and the presidential election.



[LISTEN HERE](#)

COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



Brad Riechmann
Associate VP
Regional Manager - Transportation
Horner & Shifrin

How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?
Since 2018

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?
ACEC IDOT Liaison Committee Chair, Member of the ACEC DBE/WBE/MBE Committee and IDOT D8 Liaison Committee.

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

The IDOT Liaison Committee is charged with keeping open lines of communication between IDOT and the member firms to address issues of mutual concern.

What's the number one reason people should join your committee?

It provides a great access to IDOT leadership while providing an avenue to positively resolve issues facing both firms and agency.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I love the outdoors and music. My wife and I plan our vacations around places to enjoy the outdoors, restaurants, concerts or hiking with our two dogs. Most days I can be found attending one of my two boys (10 and 14) event's which include stage performances, tennis, soccer, and basketball depending on the season.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

My younger brother Dave introduced me to Horner & Shifrin. We have been working at the same firm within the same department for over 15 years. He works mostly on jobs in Missouri while I manage projects in Illinois.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Tecma Associates, Inc. is a certified DBE firm established in 1994 specializing in construction engineering and surveying services. We are celebrating our 30th year in business and have grown to over 40 employees. In 2021, we founded a branch office in Springfield, IL, seeking to expand our Central Illinois team. Tecma takes pride in the extensive construction management experience of our employees on a wide variety of state and municipal transportation projects.

What projects are you currently working on?

Tecma is providing Phase III oversight for the replacement of 2 bridges on Reas Road in Macon County, as well as several IDOT Phase III projects including LaGrange Road over the CNRR, IM canal, CSS canal, & BNSFRR (bridge repairs, new deck, lighting, scour mitigation); I-94 (Eden's Expressway) lighting replacement from Montrose to Lake-Cook Road in Cook County; and reconstruction of Shepley Road bridge over I-80 in Will County. We are looking forward to starting the rehabilitation contract for the Tollway on I-390 from I-290 to Lake Street late this year. We are serving as a subconsultant on several local and state projects.

What project are you most proud of?

We take pride in all our projects and our talented staff. We were honored to serve as the prime consultant for eleven contracts on IDOT's Jane Byrne Interchange Improvements.

What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?

We have taken advantage of a multitude of educational offerings, industry networking events, and committee opportunities that allow you to work with peers and decision makers.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC-IL is a great advocate for the consulting industry- they are on top of legislative issues affecting our industry, know which decision makers to address with specific concerns, and provide ample educational and networking opportunities.

TECMA ASSOCIATES

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



OLIVE PARK
CONSULTING GROUP

What does your business do?

Olive Park provides comprehensive support in Accounting, Finance, and Human Resources tailored to small- to medium-sized businesses nationwide. Our expertise extends across diverse industries such as Engineering, Healthcare, Food & Beverage, Real Estate, and Non-Profits. From day-to-day HR and accounting tasks to high-level strategic guidance at the CHRO/CFO level, we offer a wide range of services.

Our strength lies in delivering top-notch assistance to organizations seeking support across their finance, accounting, and HR functions – including payroll, benefits, employee leave management, performance reviews, and compensation analysis. We provide interim or project-based solutions for businesses looking to enhance their existing capabilities. Partner with Olive Park to unlock the full potential of your company's financial and human resources management.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

As a team of seasoned professionals, Olive Park Consulting Group is dedicated to delivering a comprehensive array of fractional and project-based consulting services tailored for the engineering industry. We stay informed of the latest developments and best practices in finance, talent management, and benefit programs to strengthen our clients' workplace culture and aid them in promoting their employees' well-being. Annually, we publish a benchmarking report focused on Employee Leave Management that addresses policy design and program administration impacting organizations across

the US.

At Olive Park Consulting Group, we take great pride in our dedication to quality and client satisfaction. We remain at the forefront of our field by actively participating in industry-wide organizations, serving on committees, and speaking at various industry-related events. Our commitment to thought leadership ensures that our clients receive the most innovative and effective solutions for their business needs.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

Being an affiliate member of ACEC-IL is extremely important to our organization as the relationship allows Olive Park to better understand the financial and human capital challenges facing engineering firms in our state. Through our active involvement with ACEC-IL events, we look to build long-lasting relationships with engineering firms/professionals to help them achieve their financial goals and grow their businesses.

What is your business's motto?

Optimizing financial growth and cultivating human capital through collaboration and innovation!

OLIVE PARK CONSULTING GROUP



**UPCOMING
EVENTS...**

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

VISIT: acecil.org/events

DISTRICT 1 DRAINAGE SEMINAR

APRIL 16-17, 2024

HOSTED BY:



April 16-17, 2024

Day 1: 8:00am - 4:45pm

Day 2: 7:30am - 12:30pm

NIU Conference Center
1120 E. Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563

Who should attend?

Consultants involved in drainage design of highway improvements, drainage engineers, hydraulic engineers, project managers. Phase II Designers involved in reevaluation of Phase I Studies. Project managers who may need to scope highway improvements containing robust drainage infrastructure. Engineers involved in processing Floodway permits, Highway Access Permits, Stormwater BMPs, Design of Scour, and Hydraulics reports for Bridges, Culverts and Pump Stations.

SESSIONS:

Phase I & II Interrelationships
LDS & LDTM
Permit Overview
Stormwater BMPs
Highway Access Permits
Floodway Permits Illinois IDNR
Waterway Hydraulic Reports
Scour
SRH-2D Update
Pump Station Hydraulic Reports

REGISTER HERE



EMERGING PROFESSIONALS SOCIAL

Hosted by:
**ACEC
ILLINOIS**

**TUESDAY
APRIL 16, 2024
5:00-7:00PM**

**ACE BOUNCE
230 N Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60601**

FOOD – DRINKS – PING PONG

REGISTER HERE

Webinar Series

Presented by: ACEC IL
Emerging Professional Committee



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH | NOON-1PM
NETWORKING - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH | NOON-1PM
BEST PRACTICES OF INTEGRATING 3-D MODEL INTO THE WORK FLOW

WEBINAR HERE

IDOT REGIONAL LUNCHEON

with IDOT Region 3 and IDOT Region 4

Thursday, April 18, 2024
11:30am - 1:30pm

Merchant House
625 E Monroe
Springfield, IL 62704



Region 3 - Regional Engineer
Kensil Garnett



Region 4- Regional Engineer
Jeff Myers

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[REGISTER HERE](#)

ILLINOIS PREVAILING WAGE WEBINAR

APRIL 19, 2024
1:00-2:00pm

More than a decade ago, ACEC, IPLSA formed a coalition along with several engineering and construction organizations to address a union-led effort to encroach on surveying work in Illinois. The coalition, represented by Andy Martone and Matt Robinson of Martone Legal, reached an agreement with several unions and the Illinois Department of Labor last month addressing the issue of prevailing wage for surveyors.

Join ACEC and IPLSA as they host a webinar with Andy Martone and Matt Robinson of Martone Legal as they go through the agreement, what it means for firms and best practices moving forward.

Participation is free for members of IPLSA and ACEC.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IDOT REGIONAL LUNCHEON

with IDOT Region 5

Monday, April 22, 2024
11:30am - 1:30pm



Region 5 – Regional Engineer
Kirk H. Brown

The Regency
400 Regency Park
O'Fallon, IL 62269

ACEC  ILLINOIS



[REGISTER HERE](#)

IDOT REGIONAL LUNCHEON

with IDOT Region 1

Thursday, April 25, 2024
11:30am - 1:30pm



Region 1 – Regional Engineer
Jose Rios

Harry Caray's
70 Yorktown Shopping Center
Lombard, IL 60148

ACEC  ILLINOIS



[REGISTER HERE](#)

save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 | GENEVA, IL



Eagle Brook Country Club

*save the
date*

IDOT SPECIFICATIONS, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AND PLAN NOTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024
7:30AM - NOON

**Northern Illinois University -
Naperville Conference Center
1120 E Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563**

save the
date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

2024 **SPRING MEETING**

JUNE 4 | LOMBARD, IL

HARRY CARAY'S - BALLROOM
70 YORKTOWN SHOPPING CENTER
LOMBARD, IL



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

2024 IDOT BRIDGE SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2024
SPRINGFIELD, IL

ACEC ILLINOIS FALL *Conference* 2024

Crowne Plaza
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62703

location

OCT | 9 & 10th | 2024

save the date

Over 25 Speakers
20+ Sessions
Networking
Reception
Board Meeting

save the date

American Council of Engineering Companies

ACEC  **ILLINOIS**

of Illinois



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

2024 IDOT BRIDGE SEMINAR

OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2024
SUBURBS

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](https://www.acecil.org/committee-meeting-schedule)

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership,
for committee meeting details: emily@acecil.org

ACEC/PAC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

PAC Raffle

RAFFLE ENTRY: \$50
PURCHASE YOUR ENTRIES BY APRIL 30.



1ST - \$500
2ND - \$250
3RD - \$100

EVERYONE WHO
CONTRIBUTES
WILL BE
ENTERED FOR
THE AMAZON
DRAWING!

[PAC RAFFLE HERE](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE

PATHWAYS TO COOK COUNTY SUMMIT



Prepare for...

**A dynamic and collaborative event fostering inclusivity, transparency, and civic engagement featuring vendors, workshops and interactive sessions that provide opportunities for participants to network, grow ideas, learn best practices, and explore strategies for greater impact and professional development.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

**UIC-Dorin Forum
725 W Roosevelt Rd,
Chicago, IL 60608**



Workshop topics include:

Grants Jobs Procurement M/WBE Certification Economic Development



Scan the QR code to register

Please join Cook County for the Pathways to Cook County Summit 2024 on April 9th! Registration for the event is available at the following [link](#). This is a dynamic and collaborative event fostering inclusivity, transparency, and civic engagement featuring vendors, workshops and interactive sessions that provide opportunities for participants to network, grow ideas, learn best practices, and explore strategies for greater impact and professional development. More information can also be found the following [link](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL

Transportation & Logistics Industry Dinner 2024

Event

Wednesday | April 10th | 06:00 PM (CDT)
Fairmont Chicago , Chicago, IL 60601

REGISTER HERE



ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. ANNOUNCES APWA AWARD WINNING PROJECT

The City of Batavia accepted the American Public Works Association (APWA), Fox Valley Branch Project of the Year Award in the Environment category for less than \$5 million for their Water Treatment Plant Modifications. The project, built by Whittaker Construction and Excavating, Inc., was designed and managed by Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI). The award was accepted by the City of Batavia earlier this year at a luncheon held at Two Brothers Brewing Company in Aurora, Illinois.

The City of Batavia Public Works Department preaches the importance of sustainability and safety. The Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) 1 and 2 Modifications project demonstrates that they practice what they preach. The facilities were 20-30 years old and the project replaced and/or modified several treatment processes that were failing or outdated. Sustainability was improved by greatly reducing groundwater usage, increasing electrical and water efficiency, and improving the reliability of several key treatment processes. Treatment enhancements from this project will help provide safe drinking water to the residents and businesses throughout the City. Additionally, Operator safety was greatly improved due to several of the modifications.

In summary, the City successfully accomplished its desired goals for the WTPs improvements for several key objectives: drinking water quality, water system efficiency, operator safety at the facilities, and water system reliability through proactive maintenance.



ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

Artificial Intelligence in Design &
Construction

Progressive Design Build



Webinar Here



Webinar Here



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See what we offer in full:
holmesmurphy.com
(800) 247.7756



CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

Optimistic Economic Outlook and Challenges for Q1 2024

LISTEN HERE



**ENGINEERING
INFLUENCE**

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

ISSUE FOUR • 2023

ENGINEERING **INC.**

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REMOTE WORK**

Emergency Projects Emphasize Speed and Skill

How Climate Change Impacts Standard of Care

MO Profile: ACEC Washington

Y2 Consultants Sets Sights on Service

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Teacher
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future for your team



SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: bethany@acecil.org

Articles and updates will be included in the membership newsletter, posted on our website, and shared through our social media feeds.

Website: www.acecil.org

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