

NOON
1:30-2:30 PM
2:45 -3:45 PM
4:00-5:00 PM
5:00-6:00 PM
6:00-8:30 PM
8:30-10:30 PM

DAY 1:

Wednesday, October 14

REGISTRATION OPENS

Visit the registration desk for your nametag, ribbons, and to make sure you have the conference app downloaded!

Conference Registration

Before the Crisis: Managing Risk, Reputation and Response

Hayley Bierkle Burns, Partner, River Strategies

ROOM: Naper 2

From Concept to Completion: An IDOT Leadership Panel on Programming, Design & Construction

Moderator: Griselda Monsivais, Bowman

Fawad Aqueel, Bureau Chief of Design, IDOT R1 | Steve Schilke, Engineer of Program Development, IDOT R1 | Jonathan Schumacher, Bureau Chief of Construction, IDOT D1

Mike Short, Program Development Engineer for District 3

ROOM: Naper 2

Power Skills for High-Impact Project Managers

Jennifer Knox, PE, MBA | Consultant, Strategic Growth Advisory - Stambaugh Ness

ROOM: Naper 3

The Next Chapter: Internal Transition, ESOP, or Acquisition?

Colin Desmond Vice President - Chartwell Financial Advisory

ROOM: Conference Room C

Lessons Learned from Hundreds of FAR Audits: The 10 Most Common Mistakes Costing Engineering Firms Money

Jason Bainter, CPA, CGMA, MBA, CDA Director|CBIZ; Shareholder|CBIZ CPAs and Ben Farmer, CPA Senior Manager|CBIZ

ROOM: Conference Room B

Driving Connections: Vision, Planning & Delivery for the Next Generation Tollway

Manar Nashif, Chief Engineering Officer, Illinois Tollway & Karyn Robles, Chief Planning Officer, Illinois Tollway

ROOM: Naper 1

Beyond the Proposal: What IDOT Evaluators Are Looking For

Moderator: Libby Braband, LDB Consulting

Panel: Fawad Aqueel, IDOT Bureau Chief of Design -Region 1 | Steve Schilke, Engineer of Program Development, IDOT Region 1 | Jonathan Schumacher, Bureau Chief of Construction, IDOT-District 1 | Rebecca Tharp Assistant Region 5 Engineer, Jay M. Wavering, P.E. Studies and Plans Engineer, District 6

ROOM: Naper 2

The Profit Equation: How AEC KPIs Work Together for Growth

Jennifer Knox, PE, MBA | Consultant, Strategic Growth Advisory - Stambaugh Ness

ROOM: Naper 3

Powering Tax Savings: Strategies for Data Center Design and Construction

Alliant Global

ROOM: Conference Room C

OPENING SESSION: Building a Championship Culture - with Joe Maddon

With a remarkable 31-year Major League Baseball career, Joe managed the Tampa Bay Rays, Chicago Cubs, and Los Angeles Angels — leading the Rays to their first American League pennant in 2008 and guiding the Cubs to their historic 2016 World Series championship. But Joe’s impact extends far beyond the baseball field. Known for his authenticity, creativity, and unconventional approach to leadership, he brings a perspective shaped by decades of leading teams, navigating challenges, building culture, and bringing people together.

Join us for an inspiring conversation on leadership, teamwork, and what it takes to build something extraordinary.

ROOM: Grand Ballroom

Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

Join us for a welcome reception and to network with exhibitors.

Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

Dinner in Naperville

Attendees are invited to enjoy dinner off-site and continue conversations with colleagues and fellow ACEC Illinois members.

Off site Dinner

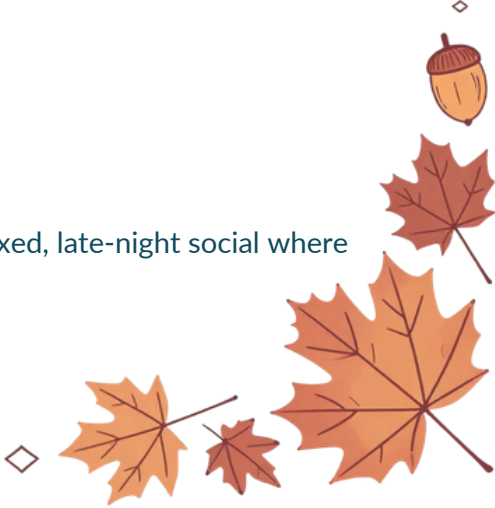
ACEC IL House Party

Keep the night going with games, friendly competition, music, and plenty of laughs. Join fellow ACEC Illinois members for a relaxed, late-night social where the only goal is to have a great time!

Come play games, listen to the DJ, and make some great memories at the ACEC IL Fall Conference!

ROOM: Grand Ballroom

FALL 2026
CONFERENCE
ACEC ILLINOIS
NAPERVILLE, IL
OCTOBER 14 – 15, 2026



DAY 2:

Thursday, October 15

FALL2026

CONFERENCE

ACECILLINOIS

NAPERVILLE, IL

OCTOBER 14 – 15, 2026

8:00 AM

Registration Opens

Visit the registration desk for your nametag, ribbons, and to make sure you have the conference app downloaded!

Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

8:00-9:00 AM

Breakfast with Exhibitors

Start your morning with a buffet breakfast in the exhibit hall while connecting with exhibitors and fellow attendees. Grab a bite, enjoy a cup of coffee, and take some time to explore the exhibits and make new connections.

Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

9:00-10:00 AM

Morning Session:
The Firm of the Future: How AI is Reshaping Engineering Practice presented by the ACEC Research Institute

SPEAKER: Joe Bates, Senior Research Consultant | ACEC Research Institute

ROOM: Grand Ballroom

10:15-11:15 AM

From Blueprint to Action: Transforming Project Delivery at IDOT

Ryan Mitchell, Deputy Secretary IDOT

ROOM: Naper 1

Best Practices for Embracing AI in the Design Industry

Jake Winkler, Sr. Account Executive, PC - Holmes Murphy

ROOM: Naper 2

Reframing Retirement for Engineering Firms

Lydia R. Zabrycki, Client Engagement | ACEC Retirement Trust

ROOM: Naper 3

Powering the Digital Future: Data Center Growth, Challenges, and Engineering Solutions

Moderator: Alec Messina, Partner at HeplerBroom

Panel: Erica Spolar, Executive Vice President and Environmental Services Manager at Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc. | Dale Lewis is Director of Data Centers at The Boldt Company, where he leads business development, preconstruction strategy and project planning for the firm's growing data center practice | Jonathan Callaway is the founder and CEO of Recall Strategies, a public affairs firm specializing in renewable energy development

ROOM: Conference Room C

11:30AM-12:30PM

Inside IDOT: Perspectives from Regions 4 and 5 Regional Engineers

Teresa Price, Regional Engineer and Rebecca Tharp Assistant Region 5 Engineer

ROOM: Naper 1

What's Ahead at CDB: Funding, Projects and Progressive Design-Build

TJ Edwards, Executive Director | Nicholas Klein, Assistant Deputy Director of Operations | Brent Lance, Administrator of Capital Planning/QBS | Keith Stewart, Administrator of Construction | Dan Troglio, Project Manager | Jesse Martinez, Administrator of Fair Employment Practices

ROOM: Naper 2

Prompts That Work: Effective AI for the AEC Firm

James Harmon is the founder of XoSelf AI, a Naperville AI training and consulting firm

ROOM: Naper 3

Investing in Illinois Water: SRF, Lead Line Replacement & Infrastructure Priorities

Nidhan Singh, State Revolving Fund Manager, IEPA and Alec Messina, Partner-HeplerBroom LLC

ROOM: Conference Room C

12:30-2:00 PM

Lunch & Closing Session

Enjoy lunch while connecting with fellow attendees, followed by our closing session.

ROOM: Grand Ballroom

