

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
10:30PM-Midnight

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

Inside IDOT: Perspectives from Regions 2 and 4

Trisha Thompson, *Regional Engineer*
Teresa Price, *Regional Engineer*

ROOM: Naper 1

From Concept to Completion: An IDOT District 1 Leadership Panel on Programming, Design & Construction

Fawad Aqueel, *Bureau Chief of Design, IDOT -Region 1*
Steve Schilke, *Engineer of Program Development, IDOT - Region 1*
Jonathan Schumacher, *Bureau Chief of Construction, IDOT-District 1*

ROOM: Naper 2

Power Skills for High-Impact Project Managers

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

ROOM: Naper 3

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

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: One-on-One with Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse

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

Lobby Bar Open

Hotel Lobby

FALL 2026

CONFERENCE

ACEC ILLINOIS

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

Join us for Day 2 Morning Session. This is included for all registrations!
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

ROOM: Conference Room C

11:30AM-12:30PM

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

Nidhan Singh, *State Revolving Fund
Manager*, IEPA

ROOM: Naper 1

Before the Crisis: Managing Risk,
Reputation and Response

Hayley Bierkle Burns, *Partner*, River
Strategies

ROOM: Naper 2

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

Chartwell Financial Advisory

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

FALL

CONFERENCE

ACEC

ILLINOIS

NAPERVILLE, IL

OCTOBER 14 – 15, 2026

