



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

OCTOBER 2025

□ Shutdown standoff: Senate and House paths diverge



The government shutdown persists as the Senate and House remain divided over continuing resolutions

Why it matters: The impasse affects federal operations and public services, with layoffs beginning in some agencies.

- While the Department of Transportation is currently spared, broader implications loom for federal projects, and air traffic controllers are facing increased pressure as their workforce is stretched thin.

The GOP's stance: Republicans aim to maintain current law and funding levels, resisting Democratic proposals to extend ACA subsidies.

- They emphasize fiscal restraint and oppose further expenditure without offsets.

The Democratic push: Democrats are firm on extending ACA subsidies and seek to repeal certain health care changes from the recent budget reconciliation bill.

- They argue that these subsidies are crucial for healthcare access and are open to

negotiation on cost offsets.

Zoom in on FHWA: FHWA operations remain insulated from the shutdown since most function are funded by the Highway Trust Fund.

What's next: The Senate will reconvene on November 14 to vote on a GOP-sponsored resolution, while the House awaits a viable proposal to consider.

- Military personnel face a missed payday, adding pressure for a swift resolution. Air traffic control operations could be disrupted if the shutdown persists, affecting travel across the nation. Both sides recognize the urgent need to reach an agreement to resume normal government functions.

□ CTA under federal microscope



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has intensified its scrutiny of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), citing safety and contracting concerns, and has frozen \$2.1 billion in federal funding for the Red Line Extension.

Key developments: On September 19, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy requested action plans from CTA to reduce fare evasion and crime, improve public safety, and outline safety funding sources.

- Federal funds for the Red Line Extension and Red & Purple Modernization are paused pending an administrative review of CTA's DBE practices.
- CTA has a 14-day window to respond.

Safety context: USDOT and FTA have highlighted transit safety as a priority due to a significant increase in homicides, assaults, and injuries on U.S. transit systems.

- CTA is among several agencies under heightened federal oversight.

Red Line extension: The project extends CTA's Red Line 5.5 miles south, crucial for South Side neighborhoods.

- While work continues, federal funds are frozen, potentially delaying timelines and increasing costs.

Implications: The funding pause could delay projects if prolonged, but CTA remains committed to moving forward.

- Federal funds depend on improved safety and compliance with contracting rules.

□ DOT rule disrupts DBE program



A new [U.S. Dept. of Transportation rule](#) has reshaped the disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program, causing concern among contractors about reduced competition.

Why it matters: Removing sex- and race-based presumptions for DBE eligibility requires individualized proof of disadvantage, which could deter participation and reduce diversity.

- ACEC Illinois is in regular communication with public agency partners to ensure smooth implementation and proper guidance.

Certification review: State programs must reassess 41,000 DBE certifications under the new standards, a significant task that risks delaying projects.

- State DOTs, including IDOT, are currently reviewing the order to ensure consistent application and are seeking additional guidance from the federal DOT.
- How certification reciprocity will work right now is unclear as state's begin their own approach to recertification.

Immediate effects: The interim rule, effective immediately, bypassed the usual public comment period, creating uncertainty.

- DOT argues the change is necessary to correct unconstitutional standards, but many agencies are pausing contracts for clarity.

Funding freeze impacts: The rule has led to a freeze on \$2.1 billion in funding for Chicago's Red Line Extension, pending a review of DBE practices.

- Similar measures are affecting other major projects, adding urgency for further guidance from DOT.

Pending litigation: A federal lawsuit in Kentucky challenges the DBE program's constitutionality.

- The judge's pending decision could further complicate the situation, potentially altering the program's trajectory.

Public participation: Interested parties can still [submit comments](#) during the rulemaking period, providing feedback and suggestions to address concerns and improve implementation.

□ Illinois unveils historic \$50.6B infrastructure plan



Governor JB Pritzker, alongside the Illinois Department of Transportation, announced a groundbreaking \$50.6 billion multi-year program to enhance state infrastructure.

Why it matters: This initiative, the largest in Illinois history, aims to improve safety, mobility, and quality of life across all counties, fueled by the Rebuild Illinois capital program.

- It includes \$400 million for 223 local projects, from street upgrades to bike and pedestrian improvements.

Comprehensive and multimodal: The program spans roads, bridges, aviation, transit, freight, passenger rail, waterways, and more.

- It covers all 102 counties, with a focus on connecting people and enhancing economic opportunities.

Impact details: The Fiscal Year 2026-31 Proposed Highway and Multimodal Improvement Program allocates \$32.5 billion for roads and bridges, and \$18.1 billion for other modes.

- Key investments include \$13.8 billion for transit and \$2.9 billion for rail.

What they're saying:

- "Under Gov. Pritzker, our investments in transportation are doing more than ever to connect people to the meaningful destinations in their lives," said **Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi**.
- "The American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC Illinois) applauds Secretary Biagi and all the dedicated employees of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for today's release of the FY2026–FY2031 Multi-Year Program. This plan represents a historic level of investment in Illinois infrastructure—with \$32.5 billion dedicated to roads, bridges, and local projects and an additional \$18.1 billion for multimodal improvements in transit, rail, aviation, and ports," said **Kevin Artl, ACEC Illinois President**.

Roads and Bridges MYP by the numbers:

- \$25.7 billion will enhance the state system, while \$6.8 billion goes to local roads and bridges
- Square feet of state bridges to be improved or built: *8.4 million*

- State lane miles to be improved or built: 7,107.

Major projects:

- I-290 Corridor: \$1.3 billion for bridge and interchange upgrades.
- I-190 Interchange: \$761 million for O'Hare Airport access improvements.
- I-80: \$610 million for bridge replacements and interchange reconstructions.

Multimodal MYP by the numbers:

- Transit: \$13.8 billion across 90 projects.
- Rail: \$2.9 billion for 29 projects.
- Aviation: \$1.2 billion for 244 airport projects.
- Marine/Ports: \$196.7 million for 28 projects.

Project highlights:

- Transit: \$175 million for Chicago Transit Authority's center operations.
- Rail: \$388.8 million to re-establish passenger service between Chicago and Quad Cities.
- Aviation: \$5.1 million for taxiway rehabilitation at Peoria International Airport.
- Marine/Ports: \$19.5 million for Lake Calumet access improvements in Chicago.

Visit the IDOT MYP Site for more information

□ US construction spending declines



The **US Census** reports a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$2.14 trillion in construction spending for July 2025, marking a -0.1% monthly decline and a -2.8% year-over-year drop.

Why it matters: This trend highlights ongoing economic uncertainty, with private construction sectors, particularly residential and commercial, driving the decline.

- Total private construction fell -4.6% year-over-year, while public construction rose 3.4%.

Economic context: Despite a revised GDP growth of 3.3% in Q2 2025, factors like high interest rates and trade uncertainties continue affecting markets.

- The residential market showed slight month-over-month growth at 0.1%, while nonresidential fell -0.2%.

Sector shifts: 2025 sees continued growth in Water and Amusement & Recreation sectors, while Public safety emerges as a top growth market, surpassing Transportation.

- Commercial and Residential sectors face declines, with Manufacturing also dipping after previous growth.



ACEC-IL's podcast Engineering Works interviews Acting Commissioner Craig Turner, who shares his journey from aspiring engineer to leading one of the nation's largest transportation departments. He discusses inspiring the next generation through workforce development, CDOT's major infrastructure projects, and how collaboration and innovation are shaping a safer, more connected Chicago.

ACTING COMMISSIONER CRAIG TURNER
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



[Listen Here](#)





CONGRATULATIONS 2025 COLLEGE OF FELLOWS INDUCTEES:

Orhan Ulger - Vice President at 2IM Group, LLC

Linda Moen - PE, PTOE, LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP - President at EFK Moen

PJ Fitzpatrick - Associate | VP - Business Development - Transportation & Construction
Business Units at HR Green, Inc.

Steve Donahue - President at Horner & Shifrin, Inc.

John Nelson - Vice President at Hanson Professional Services Inc.

Bruce Schopp - PE, SE - President / COO at Oates Associates, Inc.





2025 ACEC National Young Professional Award:

Congratulations Mallory Weber, PE - Senior Transportation Engineer at Gasperec Elberts Consulting, LLC.

"Thank you to my parents for letting me be myself, a kid who loved building things and digging around in the mud. To my mentor from day one of my career, Mike Martin, who has taught me how important it is to hold ourselves to a high standard while also not taking ourselves too seriously. And finally, to Megan Elberts and Lisa Gasperec, who have given me a place to work that is so supportive and has brought joy back to my career when it was so desperately needed."

Mallory Weber is an outstanding example of an emerging professional. Her natural leadership, engineering abilities, and excellent work ethic make her a star performer. She is a licensed professional engineer in several states with over 11 years of experience.

Mallory has seized opportunities to contribute to several career-defining projects. She has played a significant role in designing highway geometrics and temporary traffic control for many large projects, including the North Interchange – one of Florida's largest design-build projects – and Project Freeway in Rogersville – a DBIA award-winning project in Missouri.

Mallory has carved a role for herself as one of the industry leaders in 3D CAD modeling. She is highly proficient with 3D tools and has long been a contributor to industry committees on advancing and standardizing the use of 3D. Mallory led the efforts to prepare the 3D deliverables for the Illinois Tollway's second 3D pilot project in the high-profile I-490 corridor.

Among the most critical of Mallory's career achievements has been her mentorship of less experienced professionals. She is a supportive, encouraging mentor, responsible in no small part for nurturing several new engineers on their way to their PE license. Mallory also deftly engages with the non-technical aspects of the field. She is an excellent ambassador for her company and a trusted contributor to project management and quality control procedures. Self-motivated with excellent communication skills, she is the kind of engineer that elevates the entire team's performance.



Becca Boyer, Kaskaskia Engineering Group, accepted on Geri Boyer's behalf.

2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations Geri E. Boyer, PE - President & Founder - Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC

Beyond her professional achievements, Geri E. Boyer, PE, has spent decades strengthening her community and building meaningful connections across Belleville and beyond. As President of Belleville Main Street, she helped revitalize the city's downtown, while her work with the Belle-Scott Committee supported military families in lasting ways. Through her leadership with the Memorial Hospital Foundation, Geri helped direct more than \$7 million to critical programs in mental health, grief support, and youth development—impacting countless lives across the region. Her dedication extends even further. At Catholic Urban Programs, she revitalized services for the poor and elderly. Through the Belleville CEO Program, she has inspired the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders. And for over a decade, she has shared spiritual guidance as a retreat preacher and meditation teacher, nurturing the inner lives of those around her. For her unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and lifelong commitment to service, ACEC proudly honors Geri E. Boyer, PE, with the Community Service Award.



Congratulations to Illinois Capital Development Board
2025 ACEC/NSPE National QBS Merit Award Winner

Member Updates:

Oates Associates Celebrates 45 Years of Engineering Excellence

Collinsville, IL - Oates Associates, Inc. proudly celebrates 45 years of shaping communities through thoughtful engineering. As the firm marks this milestone, they reflect on the people, projects, and partnerships that have defined their journey – and continue to inspire their future.



People at the Core

Oates Associates' strength has always been its people. What began as a small team of passionate engineers has grown to a multidisciplinary workforce spread across multiple offices. The firm credits its longevity to a strong foundation established by founder David Oates. The firm's continued success is driven by the dedication, creativity, and expertise of its employee-owners. As an Employee Stock Ownership Plan company (ESOP), Oates Associates fosters a culture of shared ownership, where many team members have spent decades growing their careers and helping shape the firm's legacy.

"Celebrating 45 years is a testament to the people who make up Oates Associates," said Jeffrey Rensing, PE, SE, Chief Executive Officer of Oates Associates. "It's their commitment that has carried us forward – and it's what will continue to drive us in the years ahead."

Projects that Shape Communities

Over the past 45 years, Oates Associates has delivered innovative solutions across a wide range of civil and structural engineering and surveying projects – from critical infrastructure improvements to award-winning community spaces. Each project reflects the firm's commitment to quality. The firm takes pride in solving complex challenges through a practical, client-focused approach.

Partnerships Built on Trust

Strong relationships with clients and consultants have been foundational to the success of Oates Associates. Many partnerships span decades – and across multiple projects, a testament to the trust built through open communication, consistent performance, and shared goals.

"The trust we've built with our clients and partners is something we never take for granted," said Bruce Schopp, PE, SE, President and Chief Operating Officer of Oates Associates. "Our relationships are rooted in listening, follow-through, and a shared commitment to doing what's right for our clients."

As the firm celebrates this milestone, Oates Associates remains focused on the future – embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and continuing to serve clients with integrity and excellence. Oates Associates remains committed to delivering thoughtful solutions that improve lives and connect people and communities. Here is to the next 45 years.

Now in its 45th year, Oates Associates is a 100% employee-owned multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation and traffic engineering, ADA transition planning, stormwater management, site design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, surveying, and drone operations.

For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.

ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. CONGRATULATES A NEWLY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), an award-winning firm in civil engineering and land surveying, is pleased to announce that an engineer within the Municipal Group has obtained his Professional Engineer (PE) license.

Will Benson, PE, successfully passed the Principles and Practice of

Engineering (PE) exam administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). This rigorous exam assesses a minimum level of competency in a specific engineering discipline and is a key step in obtaining professional licensure.

In recognition of his achievement and contributions to the firm, Benson has been promoted to Senior Project Engineer I.

"We are delighted to congratulate Will on achieving this significant professional milestone," said Brad Sanderson, PE, Chief Operating Officer / President. "His dedication to advancing his career aligns with our firm's commitment to delivering high-quality engineering solutions to our clients."

As a newly licensed PE, Benson will take on expanded responsibilities in designing and construction management of municipal-related projects. His expertise will continue to contribute to EEI's ability to provide comprehensive engineering services to our clients.



For more information about EEI and our services, please visit www.eeiweb.com. About Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), founded in 1974, is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 80 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance, and municipal consulting. Our core values guide our staff on every project from initiation through completion keeping us committed to quality, service, and value for our clients. By offering outstanding service to every client, every day, we are able to assist with bettering the communities in which we serve.

Parsons is proud to announce the addition of Joe Catalano



Parsons is proud to announce the addition of Joe Catalano, P.E. to our Illinois team as Mid-Central Regional Manager | Vice President.

Joe is no stranger to the engineering industry, bringing over 40 years of experience in the Greater Chicago Area. His deep industry knowledge and leadership will be instrumental as we continue to grow our regional presence and deliver forward-thinking solutions for our clients.

At Parsons, we're powered by intelligent people who share a common quest to tackle the challenges of tomorrow—whether in global infrastructure or national security. Joe's arrival reinforces our commitment to building a team that thrives on innovation, collaboration, and shared success as we continue to imagine next, together.

Please join us in welcoming Joe to the Parsons team!

CBBEL Welcomes Tim Gustafson, AICP, as Senior Project Manager

Transportation planner with two decades of experience strengthens business operations, civil design, Phase I, and transportation teams



Rosemont, Ill. – CBBEL is announcing that Tim Gustafson, AICP, has joined the firm as a Senior Project Manager supporting business operations, civil design, Phase I, and transportation initiatives. A transportation planner with 20 years of experience in active transportation, Tim brings a proven record delivering safer, more connected streets, trails, and multimodal corridors across the Midwest and beyond.

"Tim's Complete Streets expertise and hands-on approach to trail and bikeway design will immediately benefit our clients," said CBBEL

President Mike Kerr, PE. "He knows how to move projects from vision to constructible plans while

engaging communities along the way.”

Tim’s background includes planning and preliminary engineering through final design and implementation for pedestrian and bicycle networks, protected intersections, and corridor improvements. He has led multimodal plans and trail projects for agencies across Illinois and the region, advancing low-stress networks, safety, and rider information improvements.

Tim, who lectures part-time on Complete Streets at UIC, is active with the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association and City of Chicago’s River Ecology and Governance Task Force. His credentials include AICP certification, and he is certified as a trainer with the National Association of City Transportation Officials and National Highway Institute. He holds an M.S. in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois Chicago and a B.S. in Urban Planning and Development from Ball State University.

“I am excited to join CBBEL’s talented team,” said Tim Gustafson. “From improving village main streets to regional trail connections, we see a tremendous opportunity to improve our transportation networks and make everyday trips safer, simpler, and more enjoyable for people walking, biking, rolling, riding transit, and driving.”

About Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL)

Founded in 1986, CBBEL is a full-service consulting engineering and surveying firm committed to delivering accurate, timely and cost-effective solutions to a wide range of engineering and environmental challenges. Our Illinois-based staff is comprised of more than 250 experienced and innovative professionals who provide engineering, surveying and environmental services. Learn more at CBBEL.com.

Klingner & Associates, P.C. expands to Cape Girardeau



QUINCY, IL, OCTOBER 2, 2025

— Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) has acquired Koehler Engineering & Land Surveying, Inc. (Koehler), a cornerstone of the Cape Girardeau business community for nearly 50 years.

The acquisition brings together two family-owned companies with deep Midwestern roots. Koehler, Cape Girardeau County's oldest engineering and land surveying firm, was founded by Wayne

Koehler in 1976. Instrumental in the area’s growth, Koehler has completed 37,000 projects for clients such as Cape Girardeau County, the cities of Cape Girardeau and Jackson, Southeast Missouri State University, local school districts, and various other industrial and commercial clients.

“I have been a part of Koehler Engineering & Land Surveying, Inc. (originally Koehler Land Surveying) since my dad started it when I was 8 years old,” said Chris Koehler, Owner of Koehler and now the branch’s Regional Client Manager. “At the time, my brothers, dad, and I completed surveys for private and public clients. Koehler has expanded beyond a family-only operation to employ a fantastic group of professionals and support staff and to offer a broad range of professional services in our area. We have always been committed to serving our clients and providing them with high-quality services. We look forward to this next chapter as an opportunity to join the committed team at Klingner.”

Chris Koehler and his professional staff will join a team 150 employees strong. The partnership immediately expands the Cape Girardeau location’s services and capacity. While Koehler has specialized in civil engineering, land surveying, construction materials testing, and geotechnical services, the Klingner acquisition adds architectural and interior design as well as additional capacity for mechanical, electrical, plumbing; structural; site; transportation; water / wastewater; and water resources engineering. This will expand the firm’s ability to support larger, more complex projects for existing and new clients. These complete services will help clients capitalize on opportunities

presented by recent growth in Cape Girardeau and Southeastern Missouri.

“In the past five years, we have experienced significant growth in our region of service,” said Chris Koehler. “Our company has been busier than ever. As I’ve planned for the future, I’ve realized additional support would allow us to offer better value to our clients. Klingner is a great partner for us; our companies share common values and priorities. With their capabilities and experience, they represent a great bridge to support our clients, expand our services, and adapt to the changing demands of our region.”

Klingner brings 120 years of experience serving Midwestern communities, with an impressive 87% repeat client rate. From municipalities to schools, industrial giants to state and federal organizations, Klingner combines proactive management with a client-centered approach for quality planning, design, geotechnical drilling, and construction observation / testing services. Thousands of organizations and countless individuals have chosen Klingner to tackle their infrastructure and facility challenges, including the State of Missouri, Missouri Department of Transportation, and more. The firm’s work has been recognized by the American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), among others, and Klingner maintains eight other offices across Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa.

“We are excited to join with Koehler Engineering and Surveying, Inc. to expand our geographic reach and services to the Cape Girardeau region,” said Klingner CEO / President Mike Klingner, PE. “The acquisition provides a transition plan for the Koehler family for continued service and ownership. Klingner is a professional corporation, owned by the licensed professionals of the firm. The firms are also a great fit with the type of services and client service culture. Many of our clients from 1905 are still with the firm, just as many of Koehler’s clients have stayed with them over the years.”

The Cape Girardeau office will be managed by Cullan Duke, PLA, a landscape architect with 32 years of experience at Klingner who also serves as the firm's Horizontal Sector Leader. Duke has a diverse background in mixed-use, parks and recreation, institutional, educational, downtown streetscapes, and industrial design.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to continue my career with Klingner and to join Chris and his team in southeast Missouri,” said Duke. “I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of Klingner and the Koehler team as we continue delivering high-quality services to our clients. On a personal note, I am grateful for the chance to return to my roots in southeast Missouri.”

The firm will continue to serve clients from its existing location at 194 Coker Lane while welcoming new opportunities to contribute to the region's continued growth and development. For more information about Klingner or to begin an architecture, engineering, or land surveying project, please contact 217-223-3670 or visit klingner.com.

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ABOUT KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) is a family and employee-owned engineering, surveying, and architecture firm focused on enhancing communities across the Midwest. Founded in 1905, Klingner features a staff of 165 licensed engineers, architects, surveyors, and support personnel. This multidisciplinary team manages projects of all sizes and complexities from offices in Cape Girardeau, Hannibal, and Columbia, Mo.; Carbondale, Quincy, and Galesburg, Ill.; and Burlington, Davenport, and Pella, Iowa. www.klingner.com

Oates Associates Director Michael Busch Honored as APWA Public Works Leader of the Year (Private Sector)

St. Louis, MO – A career defined by engineering and public works has earned Michael Busch, PE, PTOE of Oates Associates, Inc. a notable honor. The American Public Works Association (APWA) Missouri Chapter presented Busch with the Public Works Leader of the Year (Private Sector) award, recognizing his dedication to advancing public infrastructure and community development.

The award celebrates individuals who exemplify excellence in public service. Busch’s career reflects this through his 27 years of commitment to developing infrastructure solutions that serve communities across the



region. With a foundation in civil engineering, Busch has led the design and delivery of transportation and other infrastructure projects for local agencies and departments of transportation, helping to improve safety, mobility, and accessibility. Through thoughtful design and a collaborative approach, he continues to shape infrastructure that supports long-term public benefit.

Busch has also been a dedicated member of APWA for more than a decade, serving in various leadership roles. Over the years, he has also been involved with a range of professional and community organizations, including the American Council of Engineering Companies, Engineers' Club of St. Louis, Society of American Military Engineers, Gateway Section ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers), the Greater Belleville Chamber – Belle-Scott Committee, and the Madison County Planning Commission. The variety of organizations he has contributed to reflects his commitment to advancing the engineering profession and supporting the growth and well-being of communities throughout the region.

“Mike’s work shows that thoughtful engineering can improve daily life – whether through safer intersections and roadways or more accessible public spaces,” said Jeffrey Rensing, PE, SE, Chief Executive Officer of Oates Associates. “This recognition from APWA is a reflection of the integrity, expertise, and commitment he brings to every project and partnership.”

Now in its 45th year, Oates Associates is a 100% employee-owned multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation and traffic engineering, ADA transition planning, stormwater management, site design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, surveying, and drone operations.

For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.



Oates Associates Welcomes Back Adam Hark and Introduces New Intern Bryce McCarthy



Collinsville, IL (September 30, 2025) – [Oates Associates is pleased to welcome back Adam Hark and to introduce Bryce McCarthy as a new intern.](#)

Adam rejoins Oates Associates as an Associate Project Designer, bringing three years of experience in DOT work and projects with local agencies. His previous time with the firm, combined with additional experience gained externally, provides a strong foundation for contributing to ongoing projects and further supporting our transportation team.

Bryce is currently pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and is expected to graduate in May 2026. Through the firm’s intern program, he will work alongside engineers to gain hands-on experience in structural engineering.

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For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10.15.2025 - Webinar - *Illinois HR 2025: Hot Takes & Hot Tips on Managing Through Chaos* - [Register here](#)

10.16.2025 - **Emerging Professionals Webinar Series Kicks Off!** *RTK Drones in Transportation* - [Register here](#)

10.28.2025 - 10.30.2025 - *2DHM-A: SRH-2D Model Data Files, Diagnostics and Verifying 2D Model Results* - [Register here](#)

10.28.2025 - *Social Event at TopGolf - Naperville* - [Register here](#)

10.29.2025 - *Illinois Tollway Regional Luncheon* - [Register Here!](#)

11.12.2025 - 11.13.2025 - *OpenRoads Designer StormCAD* - [Full, add to waitlist](#)

11.18.2025 - 11.19.2025 - *ACEC IL Fall Conference* - [Register Here!](#)

12.9.2025 - *IDOT Phase 1 Seminar* - [Save the Date](#)

2.18.2026 - *ACEC IL 2026 EEA Gala* - [Save the Date](#)

2.25.2026 - *2026 Leadership Institute* - [Registration now open!](#)

6.16.2026 - *ACEC IL Spring Board Meeting & Luncheon* - [Save the Date](#)

2025 Salary, Benefits & Business Practices Survey Results - [Register here](#) *(PDF of results will be emailed to those who complete the registration)*

On Demand Education - Virtual Trainings:

- **Get Compliant & Build a Respectful Workplace** - [Register here](#) for one, or all, of these virtual trainings:
 - [Ethics & Statutes](#)
 - [Bystander Training](#)
 - [Manager Harassment Training](#)
 - [Illinois Sexual Harassment Training](#)

Agenda:

MAIN SESSIONS:

IDOT Regional Engineer Panel Discussion
Engineering Sector Economic Forecast and Discussion
Infrastructure Leadership Panel
Burn Bright, Not Out: The Blueprint for Leaders and Teams to be Unstoppable

DAY 1:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12PM

Registration Opens

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

2:00PM

Breakout Sessions

3:15PM

Main Session

4:30PM

Breakout Sessions

5:30PM

Welcome Reception

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

7-10:30PM

Welcome Dinner & Session

Join us for a 7pm welcome dinner followed by a speaker and finish the evening with music and dancing.

FALL 2025 CONFERENCE ACEC ILLINOIS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Innovative Project Delivery

IDOT Local Roads

Addressing Workforce Challenges

Employee Recruitment and Retention

Capital Development Board

Illinois Tollway and IDOT Selection Committee

AI in Action

Small, Medium & Large Firm Roundtables

Digital Delivery-the next chapter

DAY 2:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8AM

Registration

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

8AM

Breakfast with Exhibitors

Join us for breakfast in the exhibit hall.

9AM

Main Session

10:15AM

Breakout Sessions

11:30AM

Breakout Sessions

12:30-2:00PM

Lunch & Closing Session

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.





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