

KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 2025

Federal Budget Deadline: What's at Stake for Infrastructure



Every fall, Congress faces the task of funding the federal government for the next fiscal year. The new fiscal year begins October 1, and appropriations bills must be enacted—or stopgap measures put in place—to keep the government open.

Why it matters: For the engineering and infrastructure community, this process is more than political theater—it has real impacts on projects, planning, and the future of our nation's transportation systems.

- **Current Status:** No full-year FY 2026 appropriations have been passed as of early September. Without action, the government will shut down at midnight, September 30.
- **Budget Discrepancy:** The House and Senate versions of the Transportation-

HUD budget are about \$11 billion apart, complicating negotiations.

What It Means for Infrastructure:

- **Program Delays:** Competitive grants and discretionary funding through USDOT and FHWA could stall, delaying new highway, transit, and rail projects.
- **No Growth for Key Priorities:** Continuing resolutions prevent funding increases for programs like EV charging infrastructure, transit modernization, and bridge replacement.
- **Planning Disruptions:** Engineering firms depend on predictable funding pipelines for staffing and project delivery.

Looming Bigger Picture: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expires in 2026, adding to the uncertainty as Congress prepares for reauthorization.

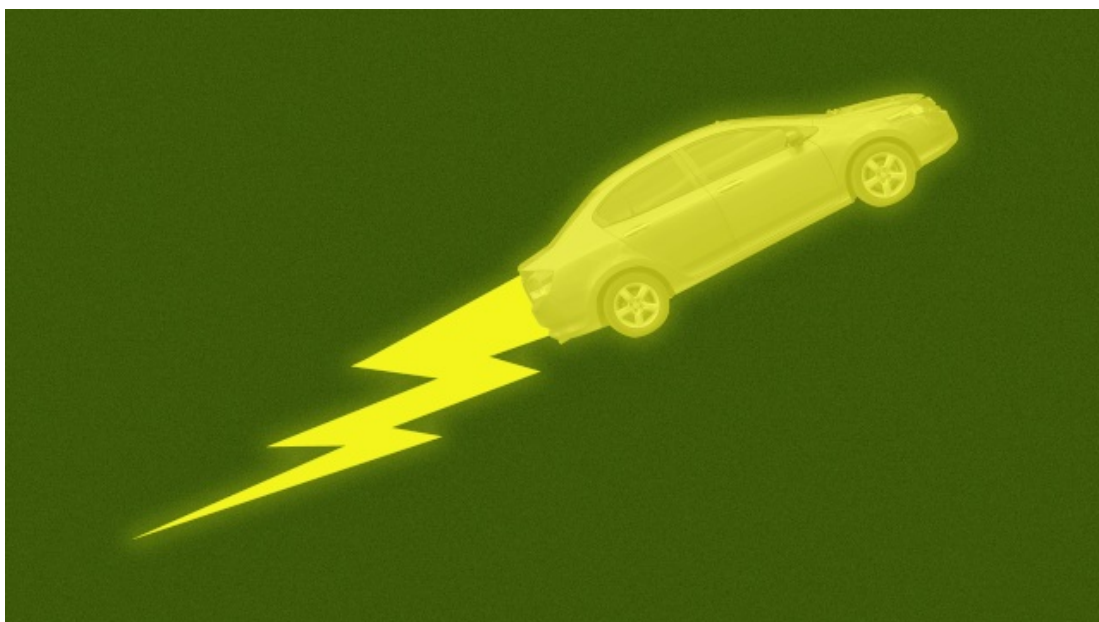
Deadlines to Watch:

- **September 30, 2025:** Government funding expires.
- **October 1, 2025:** New fiscal year begins; CR or shutdown expected without action.
- **2026: IIJA reauthorization deadline**—major decision point for the future of federal surface transportation programs.

3 Things Engineers Should Know:

- **Uncertainty is the new normal** — Expect at least a short-term CR; be prepared for delayed program rollouts.
- **Disruptions ripple fast** — Delays in grants, payments, and procurements impact firms, agencies, and local projects.
- **The bigger fight is ahead** — FY 2026 reauthorization of IIJA will shape federal infrastructure for the next decade.

NEVI Guidance Update: Impacts on EV Infrastructure



Last month, the U.S. Department of Transportation released updated [guidance](#) for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, enabling states to continue developing EV charging infrastructure along alternative fuel corridors.

Why it matters: The new guidance simplifies state plans, enhances flexibility in charger locations, and removes certain Biden-era requirements for equity and sustainability.

- This comes as the Trump Administration seeks to reduce green energy subsidies, though a court injunction has kept NEVI funds flowing.

NEVI Background: Initiated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) with \$5 billion, NEVI aims to build national corridors of DC fast charging stations.

- The Federal Highway Administration has allocated \$3.3 billion through FY25, with \$2.7 billion still unobligated.

New Guidance: States can now resubmit plans with reduced requirements, including a focus on physical and cybersecurity strategies.

- Vermont, for example, recently received \$15.8 million after updating its plan.

Federal Context: The Trump Administration's push to reduce EV subsidies and the potential rescission of greenhouse gas emission standards could impact the broader EV industry.

- The pace of state plan approvals and fund deployment will be critical under the new guidance.
- The release of NEVI funds amid changing federal policies will influence the development of alternative fuel corridors and driver experience.



ACEC IL *Bears Down*, meets with Bears Leadership to discuss future steps.



Members of the **ACEC Illinois Executive Committee** recently engaged with **Chicago Bears** leadership to discuss infrastructure needs for a potential new stadium in Arlington Heights. [*The Chicago Tribune*](#) reported today that the Bears are expected to publicly present their latest plans for a new stadium in Arlington Heights this fall, with the hope of breaking ground by spring.

Why it matters: The collaboration underscores ACEC Illinois' role as a key partner in shaping major infrastructure projects that drive economic growth and regional connectivity.

- Discussions included essential on-site requirements such as transportation access and utilities.
- Broader regional infrastructure needs were also highlighted, focusing on roadway improvements and transit connections.

Long-term vision: The meeting also explored long-term development strategies to ensure the project benefits both the stadium site and surrounding communities.

- The aim is to create a sustainable infrastructure framework that bolsters regional investment and community enhancement.

The bottom line: ACEC Illinois is committed to a continued dialogue and partnership with the Chicago Bears as their plans for the Arlington site continue to develop.

Cook County Lockbox Litigation Update



The long-running legal battle over the misuse of transportation funds in Cook County has reached a pivotal moment as the trial concluded last month in a Cook County courtroom.

Why it matters: The outcome will clarify the enforcement of the Safe Roads Amendment, which mandates that transportation-related revenues are used solely for transportation purposes.

Background: Passed in 2016, the amendment created a constitutional “lockbox” to protect funds for roads, bridges, and transit.

- The coalition, led by IRTBA and including ACEC Illinois, alleges Cook County

diverted \$177 million of \$243 million in FY 2023 revenues to non-transportation uses.

The Trial: Opening arguments included evidence of fund misuse, with testimony highlighting the negative impacts on safety, economic vitality, and mobility.

- Both sides have rested their cases, with closing arguments to be scheduled. ACEC Illinois along with IRTBA and other infrastructure stakeholders testified in the trial.

What's Next: The coalition seeks a permanent injunction against further diversion of funds.

- Judge Conlon's ruling will have far-reaching implications for the enforcement of the amendment statewide.

Implications:

- **Accountability:** Billions in transportation-related revenues are at stake, potentially setting a statewide precedent.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Ensuring funds are used for transportation improvements is crucial as Illinois faces significant infrastructure needs.

ACEC Illinois remains committed to defending the integrity of transportation funding and will provide updates as the case progresses.

Building Illinois' Engineering Future: New STEAM Law



ACEC Illinois partnered with lawmakers to advance legislation aimed at strengthening the future engineering workforce. **Governor JB Pritzker** signed the new law, sponsored by **Representative Regan Deering** and **Senator Sally Turner**, creating opportunities for Illinois students in STEAM fields.

Why it matters: Illinois is undergoing historic infrastructure transformation, requiring a robust workforce to modernize transportation, improve safety, and boost the economy.

- The STEAM Opportunity List will connect students with real-world experiences in technical and engineering fields starting next summer.

Workforce challenges: Engineering employment is at full capacity, and the IJA shows a need for 82,000 additional engineers nationwide.

- Engaging the next generation is critical to filling these gaps and ensuring Illinois'

infrastructure goals are met.

ACEC Illinois' Role: Worked alongside legislators to shape and advance this bill, highlighting the importance of growing young talent for the engineering industry. Looking ahead, the STEAM Opportunity List will enhance visibility into internships, volunteer work, and learning experiences for high school students across Illinois.

The ACEC View: “Encouraging Illinois youth to pursue STEAM careers is key to filling current gaps,” said Kevin Artl, President & CEO of ACEC Illinois. “We thank Governor Pritzker, Representative Deering, and Senator Turner for supporting this positive initiative.”



ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews Paul Gregoire, Chief Operating Officer of Globetrotters Engineering and former Chief of Construction for IDOT District 1. Named ACEC Illinois' 2025 "Mentor of the Year," Paul reflects on a career that bridges both the public and private sectors. We dive into his passion for mentorship, the lessons he's passed on to the next generation, and the lasting impact his leadership has made across the industry.



PAUL GREGOIRE
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
GLOBETROTTERS ENGINEERING

[Listen Here](#)

MEMBER FIRM

Spotlight



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Thompson Civil, LLC has been in the engineering industry for 23 years.

What projects are you currently working on?

PRIME - City of East St. Louis Infrastructure Management - Roadway rehabilitations, Drainage, Drainage Long Term Control Plan, Consultant Plan Review

SUB - IDOT PTB 195-054 Phase III District 9 - Construction Inspection - I-64 Over Wabash River Bridge Replacement

PRIME - IDOT PTB 212-032 Phase II District 6 - Various Roadway Design Projects

SUB - IDOT PTB 200-033 Phase I/II District 7 - Intersection Design Decatur IL

SUB - IDOT 212-041 Phase I District 8 - East St. Louis Transportation Study

SUB - IDOT 216-047 Phase I/II District 8 - Interstate 55/70 at Keebler Road: Structure Replacement

What project are you most proud of?

Infrastructure Management in East St. Louis provides my firm the satisfaction of performing for a community that is always on the distress city list. The property owners are normally elderly and merely providing new streets, street lighting, and drainage flooding management and Grant pursuits are utmost satisfying for our firm.

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

Being a part of a community that shares the same goals and values as we do. However, we know we must engage with well-known Prime contractors to get projects.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

To keep up with current news concerning our industry.



BOARD MEMBER

Spotlight

**MICHAEL ZORN
LOCHNER**



1. How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

29 years

2. What positions have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

Digital Delivery Lead, IDOT Region 1/District 1 Committee Chair, Subcommittee Chair for Outreach to High School Students, Member of Liaison committees including Cook and Kane Counties.

3. What is the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL Member?

ACEC provides many top-notch benefits to member firms including networking opportunities, leadership and technical education, and recognition but I think the number one reason is the advocacy ACEC-IL provides.

4. Why should individuals become involved in ACEC Illinois?

To meet and interact with key people and leaders on the client side and with other member firms. If you get chance to be on a committee, be an active collaborative member who volunteers for sub-committees and leads initiatives. It makes the experience richer and shows people the value you bring.

5. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

As a lifelong Cubs fan, I've really enjoyed going to games this summer and experiencing the fun winning baseball in person with my family. The lyrics of Eddie Vedder have been true for me, "When you're born in Chicago, you're blessed, and you're healed / The first time you walk into Wrigley Field"

6. Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

Ours has been a Wheaton Warrenville South HS show choir family for 5 years and appear to have another 5 years ahead. If you're looking to attend the top competition in the Chicagoland area this spring, I know a guy who can get you good seats.

Member Updates:

Patrick Engineering has now rebranded as RINA North America

In early 2023, Patrick Engineering Inc. was acquired by RINA Consulting S.p.A, the subsidiary of the RINA Group. operating in multiple engineering sectors worldwide with thousands of RINA employees around the globe. For the past 18 months, Patrick Engineering has continued to do business under its historic name and logo. Now, as part of our ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence, we are rebranding to RINA. This change reflects our evolving business and the dynamic services we offer and is a part of becoming ONE RINA. This is the name and logo you will see on all of our company-branded materials going forward.

RINA's global network of over 5,800 talented professionals are committed to collaborating with our clients and partners to develop solutions to today's challenges. With a focus on energy transition and transportation, we specialize in engineering solutions across a wide range of



markets, including Marine, Energy, Infrastructure and Mobility, Real Estate, Space and Defense, and Industry 4.0. The people in our global network come from various cultures, countries, and backgrounds – respecting and embracing these differences makes us much stronger to develop the solutions to today's challenges.

Please know that while our brand name and logo are changing, our legal entity remains Patrick Engineering Inc. Official legal and financial documents will be signed under that name until the name change is legally formalized in due course. Our dedication to providing exceptional industry service and support will continue as always. This is an exciting milestone for us and our clients as it strengthens our presence in the North American market, enhancing our ability to serve our clients and allowing us to offer more comprehensive solutions and drive innovation across our markets under our new brand, RINA.

Oates Associates Welcomes Karen Geldert

COLLINSVILLE (September 9, 2024) – With three decades of experience in transportation, Karen Geldert, PE adds further depth to our team of engineers as a senior project manager at Oates Associates, Inc. Karen is an established engineer and project manager with a deep understanding of infrastructure challenges and opportunities within local transportation networks. Oates Associates is a local civil and structural engineering firm committed to serving and improving our community. Karen's local knowledge and engineering expertise was a natural fit as we continue to help communities and government agencies improve infrastructure.



Karen joins us having most recently served as a field engineer in local roads with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), District 8. From planning, programming and engineering through to administration, she has worked extensively with communities to enhance traffic flow, safety and connectivity.

“We are thrilled to welcome Karen to our team,” said Bruce Schopp, PE, SE, President of Oates Associates. “Her extensive experience in transportation planning and engineering will be instrumental as we continue to deliver infrastructure solutions to our clients. We have worked with Karen throughout her significant tenure at IDOT – and her expertise adds even more depth to our talented team of engineers.”

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 Employee Earns Professional Engineer License

COLLINSVILLE (September 10, 2024) – Fostering the professional development of our team members at Oates Associates, Inc. is crucial to help support our dedication to improving local infrastructure within our community. Through professional licensure, we continue to enhance our team's capabilities in delivering our clients thoughtful and innovative civil and structural engineering solutions.



Becoming a licensed professional is a significant milestone, and we are happy to share that Roshan Pokhrel has earned his Professional Engineering (PE) license and has been promoted to a project engineer. His continued growth reinforces our firm's ability to positively impact communities through advanced transportation engineering. Roshan is supported by 30 licensed engineers at Oates Associates.

Congratulations to Roshan on his achievement!

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Oates Associates Welcomes Julian Chastain



COLLINSVILLE (July 29, 2025) – Oates Associates is pleased to announce the addition of Julian Chastain, PE to the team. With nine years of experience in sanitary sewer and stormwater drainage design, he brings a strong technical

background with a commitment to enhancing local communities through thoughtful infrastructure solutions.

Julian's experience includes extensive work with hydraulic modeling tools and drainage systems. He brings valuable insight from a previous role with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), where he developed a deep understanding of regional challenges and opportunities for innovation.

With a local focus, Oates Associates looks forward to Julian collaborating with the team on projects that make a meaningful impact across the communities the firm serves.

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.



**Kevin McCormick, PE, CxA,
Joins Horner & Shifrin, Inc. as
Assistant Business Unit
Leader (Commissioning) –
Building Services**

Horner & Shifrin, Inc. is pleased to announce that Kevin McCormick, PE, CxA has joined the firm as Assistant Business Unit Leader for Commissioning in our Building Services group.

Kevin brings more than a decade of experience in mechanical engineering and commissioning, with specialized expertise in mission-critical environments. In his role, Kevin will be

responsible for the operations and performance of the commissioning team, focused on ensuring the successful delivery of complex, high-performance projects.

Throughout his career, Kevin has overseen the execution of numerous projects across the healthcare, education, and science & technology sectors, including research & teaching laboratories, hospitals, semiconductor manufacturing plants, sports facilities, student housing, and central utility plants. His credentials include Certified Commissioning Authority (CxA) and Professional Engineer (PE), underscoring his commitment to the highest industry standards. Kevin also holds certifications as a Building Enclosure Commissioning Process Provider (BECxP) and Accredited Commissioning Authority + Building Enclosure (CxA+BE).

“Kevin’s expertise in commissioning is an extremely valuable addition to our MEP team,” said Jeff Crawford, Senior Vice President, Business Unit Leader – Building Services. “His specialized skill set will complement our existing capabilities and allow us to provide a more comprehensive service offering to our clients.”

Kevin earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri – Columbia. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Missouri and is certified through the AABC Commissioning Group.



Raymond Kumapley Named SE3’s CEO and President

CHICAGO (date) – SE3, LLC is pleased to announce an internal leadership transition, marking an exciting new chapter for the company. After twenty-one years of exceptional leadership and dedication, SE3's founder Vern Stewart will be stepping back from day-to-day operations. Vern will continue to be engaged with SE3, providing strategic guidance as he transitions to the role of Emeritus CEO. His visionary leadership and wisdom have been instrumental in shaping SE3’s success, and the company will benefit from his expertise in a continued advisory capacity supporting leadership and making sure that the company culture remains intact.

Succeeding Vern as President and CEO is Raymond Kumapley, PE, a seasoned leader with a proven track record in the engineering industry. Raymond joined SE3 in 2011 as the Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, playing a pivotal role in corporate operations and driving the firm’s expansion. With over 20 years of experience in civil engineering, he has led the planning and design of numerous transportation infrastructure projects across the Midwest for state and local agencies.

Raymond proudly received his undergraduate degree from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana, West Africa and his master’s degree from Purdue University. As an active industry leader, Raymond is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC-IL), the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). He has served as a member or chair of various committees within these organizations.

Bringing Infrastructure Projects to Life. Founded in 2004, SE3, LLC is a leading mid-sized civil engineering firm specializing in transportation, municipal engineering, site development, construction management, and right-of-way acquisition support, with multiple offices in Illinois, Missouri, and Texas. Recognized for delivering innovative, cost-effective solutions, SE3 has contributed to high-profile projects across the Midwest, and has successfully brought infrastructure projects to life in over 25 states across the country. The firm is driven by commitment to integrity, honesty, and service, offering expertise in planning, design, construction management, and system deployment. This leadership transition reinforces SE3’s dedication to growth, excellence, and client success as the company continues to expand its impact in the engineering industry.



Illinois Tollway Launches “If Only” Campaign to Reduce Speeding and Save Lives

New Campaign Encourages Safe Driving Choices

Safety is always a top priority as the Illinois Tollway continuously explores ways to develop and promote better roadways. The 294 miles of Tollway roads are designed with safety in mind, with wider lanes and shoulders, the latest traffic management technologies and innovative ways to enhance safe driving on the system. Through programs like *999, Zero Weather Road Patrols, Give Them Distance, Drop It and Drive and Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, the Tollway maintains a laser-like focus on customer safety.

To educate drivers about safe driving, the Illinois Tollway recently launched “If Only” - a campaign to make drivers stop and think: if only I had made a safer choice, if only I had considered the lives at stake, if only I had slowed down, this tragedy could have been avoided.

“If Only” features authentic and compelling perspectives of people who have been deeply impacted by speed-related crashes, as well as advertising, promotion of safe driving tips and outreach to stakeholders who can help amplify the Tollway’s message.

“The campaign seeks to inspire drivers to reconsider their behaviors behind the wheel by focusing on the potential unintended consequences of speeding – not only for themselves but for those sharing the road with them,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse. “The lives of the Illinois Tollway’s customers, maintenance workers, H.E.L.P. truck drivers and construction contractors depend on it.”

To learn more about the "If Only" campaign, learn about safe driving tips and access a digital toolkit, visit: <https://agency.illinoistollway.com/web/guest/if-only-campaign>



Virtual: Insurance Requirements Red Flags

[Register Here](#)

Join Holmes Murphy Construction for an overview of insurance requirements found in various types of contracts. This session will also help attendees identify "red flag" language that should be carefully reviewed and negotiated



9.10.2025 - Virtual Training - *IDOT Earthwork Webinar* - [Register here](#)

9.17.2025 - Webinar - *Fall 2025 NEPA Updates* - [Register here](#)

9.18.2025 - *IDOT Update Regional Luncheon* - [Register here](#)

9.24.2025 - Webinar - *Risk Drivers: 2025 New Release!* - [Register here](#)

9.30.2025 - 10.3.2025 - Virtual Training - *2DHM: Two-Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling of Rivers at Highway Encroachments* - [Register here](#)

10.7.2025 - 10.9.2025 - *Intro to NEPA Essentials* - [Register here](#)

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](#)

10.21.2025 - 10.23.2025 - *OpenRoads Designer Fundamentals Training* - [Save the Date](#)

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

10.29.2025 - *Illinois Tollway Regional Luncheon* - [Save the Date](#)

11.12.2025 - 11.13.2025 - *OpenRoads Designer StormCAD* - [Save the Date](#)

11.18.2025 - 11.19.2025 - *ACEC IL Fall Conference* - [Save the Date](#)

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!](#)

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

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ACEC's Fall Conference in sunny San Diego from October 5-8 is open for registration!

Explore the full schedule to see general sessions, roundtables, networking events, and special activities designed to inform, inspire, and connect.

[View Schedule](#)

[Register Now](#)

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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