



Dear Colleagues – Heading into the 4th of July holiday, your Council made important progress with Senate EPW committee approval of a six-year highway reauthorization bill that contains several ACEC-backed reforms. The bill does not, however, address the critical issue of how to pay for the reauthorization, and we continue to press Congress on this matter. Congratulations to ACEC/New York for its recent successful initiative, supported by the Minuteman Fund, to secure \$3.5 billion in infrastructure funding in the New York state budget. In the continued absence of strong federal funding, we are supporting a wide range of state efforts. Now if we could only convince our federal legislators to apply the same thinking that has increasingly prevailed at the state level – including gas tax increases – we would have cause for celebration. However, the fact that Congressional Republicans worked closely with the White House on the passage of this week’s trade legislation suggests that bi-partisan cooperation is not completely a thing of the past. Happy Independence Day!

Dave

PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY UPDATE

July 1, 2015

General

- Secured six-year highway program reauthorization through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee featuring a three percent annual funding increase.
- ACEC/New York secured nearly \$3.5 billion in new infrastructure funding in the current state budget and five-year capital plan in a major legislative victory aided by the Minuteman Fund.
- With a Minuteman Fund-supported amicus brief, ACEC/Metro Washington and ACEC/Virginia achieved a procedural success before the Virginia Supreme Court, which agreed to hear an appeal of a lower court decision that ruled that an engineer has a duty to confirm manufacturers’ representations regarding products used in a design.
- ACEC/Kansas reached its ACEC/PAC goal, joining Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Government Advocacy

- ACEC-backed policies such as funding increases, modified tolling authority for Interstate reconstruction, project delivery streamlining, and multistate pilot projects to study mileage-based user charges or other alternative revenue systems were all included in the new six-year highway bill reported out of Senate committee.
- Submitted hearing testimony to the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committees in support of raising the federal gas tax and other options to support the long-term stability of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) introduced ACEC supported legislation that streamlines design-build and limits the use of reverse auctions.
- Provided assistance to ACEC/Kansas as it fought efforts during the state budget debate to impose a professional services tax on A/E services.
- Launched grassroots effort to support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.
- ACEC/PAC crossed the \$500,000 mark in June, and maintaining a fundraising pace to raise \$1 million by the end of the year.
- ACEC/PAC hosted a dinner to support Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
- Co-hosted fundraisers for John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as well as Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), John Duncan (R-TN), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Mike Simpson (R-ID), and Adam Smith (D-WA).
- Hosted at ACEC offices an industry meet and greet for newly elected Congressman (and engineer) Bruce Westerman (R-AR).

Business Resources

- Held successful ACEC Expert Witness course, in which technical professionals honed their skills at providing effective testimony as engineering experts.
- The Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) added two new providers in June – Primera Engineers and Wade Trim Associates – for a new total of 119.
- Released new publication, *Opportunity Management for Private Client Practices*, which provides an easy to use template to assess and manage business development activities.
- ACEC's Senior Executives Institute Class 20 met for their third session in Colorado, where team learning, organizational vision and strategy were discussed.
- Coalitions' best sellers for June included CASE's *Developing a Culture of Quality* and *Quality Assurance Plan*, both available at www.acec.org/bookstore.

- With 81 attendees, June's most popular webinar, *The 21 Best Differentiators for Your Firm*, highlighted differentiating techniques firms can use to gain competitive advantage in the marketplace.
- July webinars will include: *Deal Makers and Deal Breakers*; *How to Win a Pitch: The Fundamentals That Will Distinguish You From Your Competition on the Short-List*; *Superstar Project Managers Make Money: Set Yourself Up On Day One*; *The BackPocket! Business Plan Outrageously Simple Business Planning for Extraordinary Business Results*; *Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Regulatory Outlook and Potential Applications for A/E Firms*; *Smart Buildings/Smart Cities and the Opportunities for Engineers*; *Using an Executive Scorecard to Improve Results*.