



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

100 Years of Excellence

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Last Word

NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

INDUSTRY NEWS

FutureGen Power Plant Gets \$1-Billion Resurrection

FutureGen, the coal-fired power plant that was put on hold during the Bush Administration, was resurrected with \$1.073 billion from the Energy Department....[click here](#) for more.

Federal Government Releases New Subcontract Agreement

It is now easier for construction companies to work on federal government construction projects. An industry-wide coalition called ConsensusDOCS has published a new contract agreement[click here](#) for more.

How Much Does Road Construction Really Snarl Up Traffic?

The stimulus spending in response to the economic downturn is expected to produce road-works projects across the country....[click here](#) for more.

[Click here](#) for more News Briefs.

[Click here](#) for a printer-friendly Last Word.

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With more than 28,000 unique visitors each month—and with each visit averaging more than 18 minutes—advertising on www.acec.org offers a great opportunity to build your brand, promote your firm and grow your business.

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Oberstar Unveils 6-Year, \$500 Billion Federal Transportation Authorization Blueprint

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN), released a broad outline of his six-year surface transportation authorization program this week—a much anticipated first step in the process to reauthorize programs under SAFETEA-LU.

In a meeting with ACEC and other key industry organizations, Oberstar proposed a streamlined transportation package to consolidate a number of federal programs into a handful of larger funding pools focused on specific goals, such as preserving roads and bridges, mitigating congestion, and increasing safety.

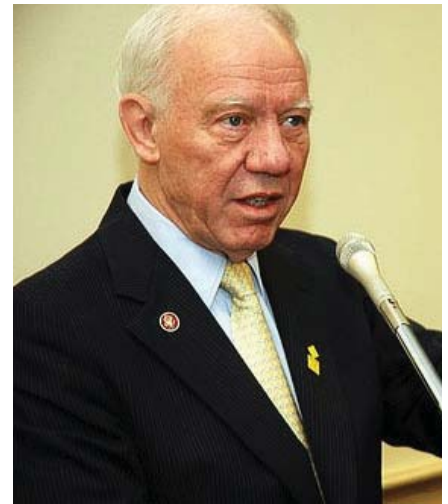
The bill would provide \$500 billion over the next six years, including \$337 billion for highways, \$98 billion for mass transit, and a new \$50 billion authorization for high speed rail. Oberstar's proposal did not include details on how to raise the revenues necessary to support the funding levels in the bill.

The measure largely follows recommendations by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, which called for a significant increase in federal investment in transportation infrastructure and sweeping changes to the current federal program to make it easier for state departments of transportation to get the most out of available revenue.

Oberstar's announcement came shortly after Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood called for an 18-month extension of current programs, to give more time for lawmakers and the Administration to replenish the Highway Trust Fund and develop legislation. Current programs expire on September 30, and projected revenues cannot sustain existing funding levels.

"The timely passage of a well-funded transportation program is probably the single most effective way for Congress and the Administration to promote long-term economic growth," said ACEC President Dave Raymond. "But Jim Oberstar can't do this alone – the Administration needs to rethink its position and get behind the effort to get this done now."

[Click here](#) for more information on Chairman Oberstar's transportation plan.



Rep. Jim Oberstar's (D-MN) proposal for the new federal highway authorization bill would reorganize and streamline the federal funding process.

The ACEC Bookstore Has Moved!

If you've bookmarked our website, please update your link to https://netforum.acec.org/eweb/?site=acec_store.

Books To Steer Your Team Through The Storm

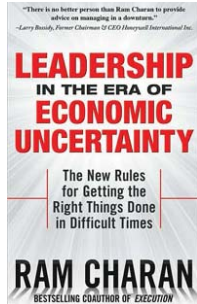
Leadership in the Era of Economic Uncertainty

The New Rules for Getting the Right Things Done in Difficult Times

Ram Charan

Renowned consultant Ram Charan traces the causes of the current economic crisis, identifies the essential priorities managers need to focus on now and offers clear guidelines for top executives and managers.

[Click here](#) to order.



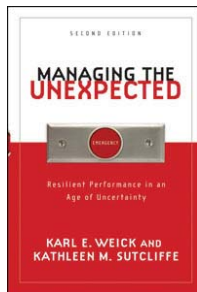
Managing the Unexpected, 2nd Edition

Resilient Performance in an Age of Uncertainty

Karl E. Weick, Kathleen M. Sutcliffe

Why are some organizations better able to function in the face of unanticipated change? Authors Karl Weick and Kathleen Sutcliffe point to high reliability organizations (HROs), such as emergency rooms in hospitals, flight operations of aircraft carriers and firefighting units, as models to follow. These organizations have developed ways of acting and styles of learning that enable them to manage the unexpected better than other organizations.

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ACEC/Indiana Supports "Political Insurance" In Achieving 2009 ACEC/PAC Goal

ACEC/Indiana became the latest Member Organization to achieve its 2009 ACEC/PAC fundraising target. The Hoosier State joins Wisconsin and Hawaii as states that already have reached 2009 fundraising goals.

"We've met our ACEC/PAC goal every year since they started keeping track," said state PAC Champion Philip Beer, of USI Consultants in Indianapolis, "But this was the first year we had complete involvement by our state board. Every board member was given a goal and responsibility for raising the personal funds necessary to meet their target. I'm proud to say each board member stepped up and delivered by following up with past PAC donors and initiating outreach to new prospects. Working together, we made it happen."



ACEC/Indiana PAC Champion Philip Beer secured 100% involvement from the state board.



Indiana M.O. President Ross Snider credited ACEC's success on Capitol Hill.

ACEC/Indiana President Ross Snider, also of USI Consultants, added, "Our success didn't happen by accident. We actively educated the engineers in the state on the impressive work ACEC continues to do for its members on Capitol Hill, including infrastructure funding, tax reform and QBS. So, when we asked for their support, we got it. They understood how important this 'political insurance' is for their business."

[Click here](#) to see each state's progress in achieving its ACEC/PAC goal for 2009 and information on the PAC Champions leading their state fundraising efforts. For more information about ACEC's political programs, contact Greg Knopp, ACEC's executive director for political affairs at gknopp@acec.org or ACEC/PAC Director Elizabeth Coit, at ecoit@acec.org.

ACEC/New York's Jay Simson Promotes Economic Rationale for Outsourcing in ENR

ACEC/New York Executive Director Jay Simson advocated for the cost-effectiveness of private sector design of public projects in a column titled "Taxpayers Benefit By Outsourcing" in the June 15, 2009 issue of *Engineering News Record*.

Citing a report by Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Simson noted that private design firms provide a savings of 14 percent compared to publicly employed engineers on state DOT projects.

The report, which was commissioned by ACEC/New York, focuses solely on New York state, but it contains a wealth of information about the cost-effectiveness of outsourcing that could apply to other states.

To read Simson's *ENR* column, [click here](#).



Jay Simson, executive director of ACEC/New York, provides the economic support for outsourcing in a column in *Engineering News-Record*

EJCDC Documents On Sale Through July 31

All EJCDC documents are 10 percent off regular price through July 31, 2009.

Contracts are available immediately as downloadable Microsoft Word documents – no waiting for your purchase to arrive. Documents can also be purchased and sent to you on CD for an extra \$6 ground shipping charge. Contact the publications department at (202) 347-7474, ext. 327 to order EJCDC contracts on CD.

This offer does not apply to previously-placed orders or other contract documents for sale at the ACEC Bookstore. All purchases of EJCDC Contract Documents are final sales only – no refunds or exchanges.

[Click here](#) to check out the full list of EJCDC documents available through the ACEC Bookstore.



ACEC/Arkansas Executive Director Ann Hamilton Retires After 28 Years



Retiring ACEC/Arkansas Executive Director Ann R. Hamilton holds a plaque presented to her at the Annual Convention honoring her 28 years of service. She is joined from the left by ACEC/Tennessee Executive Director Candy Toler, ACEC President Dave Raymond, and former ACEC Chairman John Hennessy.

ACEC/Arkansas Executive Director Ann Hamilton retired this week after 28 years of Council service.

Hamilton was presented a plaque recognizing her long tenure as ACEC/Arkansas executive director at the recent Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

“Ann has been a tremendous supporter of ACEC for so many years and in so many ways. We will all miss her,” said ACEC President Dave Raymond.

Hamilton served on many ACEC national committees during her tenure, including four years as the NAECE liaison to the ACEC Business Insurance Trust.

Tips for Maximizing Your Membership ROI

Tip #1: Encourage Firm-wide Involvement in ACEC

The return on your membership investment is directly related to the level of participation by you and your employees in the activities of ACEC. To get the highest ROI, encourage your team to join committees of interest, participate in the webinars, seminars, and conventions, and to build relationships with fellow ACEC members throughout the country.

“When we first started our firm 30 years ago, for the most part only the principals were involved in ACEC,” said Philios Angelides, senior vice president of Alpha Corp. in Dulles, Va. “Over the years, we have made participating in ACEC an important part of our corporate culture. Today most of our professional staff is active in the Council and we realize the benefits every single day.”

“All our key staff take full advantage of ACEC’s educational programming, whether it’s the online seminars, the Convention sessions, or multi-day seminars,” added Ron Ewing, COO of Dewberry, Inc., in Fairfax, Va. “We see this broad involvement as a vital competitive advantage.”

[Click here](#) to add staff members to your firm’s ACEC roster. They will receive all the benefits of ACEC membership, including *Last Word*, our bi-monthly magazine, *Engineering Inc.*, and information about upcoming educational programs.

ACEC JOB BOARD

Find The Best Candidates At ACEC’s Job Board

The [ACEC Job Board](#) is a founding member of the [Engineering & Science Career Network](#), and we are growing. Now your job postings appear on 30 association job sites, for the price of one.

No other recruitment tool can penetrate the association niche like ACEC’s Job Board. With more than 16,900 candidate resumes, the ACEC Job Board’s advanced search features produce effective, specific results for both job seekers and employers.

To get you started, we are offering a 20 percent discount on posting in the month of June. Just enter the code JUNE20 to receive your discount. Don’t miss these big savings.

Visit the [ACEC Job Board](#) to create an account and post your job today.

For more information, contact Nina Goldman at 202-682-4325 or write ngoldman@acec.org.

ACEC JOB BOARD

Over 425 Searchable
Jobs Posted

Over 16,900 Searchable
Resumes Posted

Over 2,000 Registered
Employers

Last Five "Help Wanted"
Open Positions:

MEP Engineering Firm Manager—
Danbury, CT

Senior Engineer-Geotechnical—Diamond
Bar, CA

Regional Manager—Houston, TX
Highway Section Manager—Los Angeles,
CA

Resident Engineer—Houston, TX

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—1,128

Water Resources/Wastewater

Engineers—1,716

Transportation—1,471

Civil Engineers—2,360

Structural Engineers—1,693

Environmental Engineers—1,538

View These Resumes and Jobs
on ACEC's Job Board

<http://www.acec.org/jobbank>

ACEC INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Submit 2010 Spring Convention Session Proposals By July 22 Deadline

Proposals for session presentations at the ACEC 2010 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit, set for April 25-28, Washington, D.C., are now being accepted by the ACEC Institute for Business Management.

Sessions are to be 75-minute presentations on topic areas under any of nine tracks: business management and quality, finance, human resources, information technology, leadership, legal and risk management, business development, project management and project delivery.

Featuring a unique combination of educational programming, Capitol Hill visits, the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, networking opportunities, tours and exhibits, this Annual Convention has historically attracted an impressive roster of design professionals with wide-ranging professional education interests.

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. EDT, July 22, 2009. For full descriptions of track topics, benefits of presenting, and the presentation entry form and requirements, [click here](#).

Navigating Wetlands Work Insider Online Seminar Now Available On-Demand

ACEC's recent online seminar *Navigating Wetlands Work: Engineering During a Time of Transition*, is now available for purchase and download from the ACEC Bookstore.

Led by Charles "Chip" Smith, assistant for environmental, tribal and regulatory affairs, Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), this 1-1/2 hour presentation examines a wide array of regulatory and permitting issues governing wetlands and waterways.

For details and to order, [click here](#).

BIM Course Examines Work Flow Changes, IT, Risks, Time/Money Savings

Building Information Modeling (BIM): The Promise and The Reality for A/E/C Firms

October 29-30, Seattle

Is BIM a competitive edge? Is it increasingly a factor in gaining new business for firms that utilize it? According to a McGraw-Hill *SmartMarket Report*, "the benefits are tangible and the risks of not participating outweigh those of getting engaged."

To address current and future industry challenges, ACEC will present *Building Information Modeling (BIM): The Promise and The Reality for A/E/C Firms* on October 29-30 in Seattle. This 2009 version of the course will be an informative and timely look into the many components of the increasingly popular BIM interdisciplinary project delivery system.

Course faculty will include industry innovators who are transforming the BIM multi-dimensional project planning concept into an A/E/C marketplace advantage. The 1½-day agenda will be segmented into reasons for change; exploring the technology and interoperability; implementation strategies and IT case study; an updated look into risk management and insurance for

Online Seminars Are Cost-Effective Source For Business Tools, PDHs

With one registration fee payable per Internet connection, a roomful of staff can participate in an ACEC online seminar at no additional cost—a welcome and cost-effective way to gain knowledge and earn needed PDHs. ACEC's 2009 calendar of online seminars features a wide variety of topics in support of better A/E business management knowledge and the techniques needed to weather an uncertain economy.

The number of attendees at our weekly online seminars—on a laptop or gathered in a firm's conference room—continues to grow. To meet ongoing needs for short, focused learning on topics of current business and professional interest, we're putting together the fall online course schedule, which will begin in late summer.

Watch *Last Word* and the Institute for Business Management [education calendar](#) for information and to register for these new courses.

If you have an idea for an online course, we'd like to hear about it. Note 'Online Seminar Idea' in the subject line, and e-mail to Education@acec.org.

June

23—[How Can You Exceed My Expectations If You Don't Know What They Are? Looking for Real \(and Useful\) Client Feedback](#) by David Stone, Stone & Company

"BIM-ready" firms; and a new segment on BIM from the M/E/P perspective. This course will be ideal for firm principals planning, considering or beginning to implement BIM.

For details and to register at best advance price, [click here](#).

BIM Survey Input Sought

To update their *SmartMarket* report on the business value of BIM, McGraw-Hill is seeking participation of BIM users and non-users in an industry-wide survey on adoption of the system. [Click here](#) to access the confidential survey questionnaire.

Next Week Online: Getting Client Feedback and How to Make It Useful

How Can You Exceed My Expectations If You Don't Know What They Are? Looking for Real (and Useful) Client Feedback

June 23, 1:30-3 p.m.

"The idea of seeking out regular, reliable and candid feedback from clients is simultaneously exciting and terrifying," according to David Stone, Stone & Company. This thought-provoking session offers methods for actively seeking clients' opinions about what your firm does both well and poorly, and provides some practical suggestions about what to do once you've gotten that feedback.

For details and to register for this seminar, [click here](#).

Join Fellow Industry Finance Leaders at Forum, September 14-15 in Chicago

ACEC's Finance Forum for industry finance professionals has opened registration for the next meeting, set for September 14-15 in Chicago. The popular Forum event provides attendees the opportunity to network with peers and exchange valuable information and best practices.

Planned topics for the fall meeting include the economic downturn, the stimulus package, cash flow, acquisitions, ESOPs and additional areas of interest that may arise. The Forum is open to members and non-members.

[Click here](#) to register.

The American Council of Engineering Companies
1015 15th St., NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-2605
Phone: 202-347-7474 • Fax: 202-898-0068
www.acec.org • E-mail: acec@acec.org
Alan D. Crockett, Director, PR • Gerry Donohue, Designer