



Last Word

Vol. XXX, Number 46 • December 17, 2009

NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

ACEC NEWSLINE

Senate, House Approve 3-Month FAA Funding Stopgap Measure

Congress has approved a new series of extensions to allow Federal Aviation Administration programs, including the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) construction grants...[click here](#) for more.

GAO Reports on How States Have Used Stimulus Funds

Recent testimony based on a Government Accountability Office report, in response to a mandate under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, address the uses of Recovery Act...[click here](#) for more.

Green Buildings Pose Potential Legal Liabilities

While the sheer volume of new LEED projects signals a permanency for green construction, there are a number of legal issues that builders...[click here](#) for more.

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

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

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House Passes Jobs Bill Including Major Investments for Infrastructure

ACEC Urges Congress to Move Beyond “Shovel Ready”

The House cleared a \$75 billion jobs bill this week that includes over \$48 billion for transportation, water, energy, school renovation and housing projects. Funds redirected from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), which aided struggling financial institutions, will pay for the bill.

ACEC President Dave Raymond applauded House leaders for the continued emphasis on infrastructure investment, but cautioned Congress on the need to move away from basic maintenance projects and fund larger infrastructure improvements that will do more to create and sustain jobs.

“The previous focus on pot-hole filling and pavement resurfacing cannot sustain robust job creation or energize the economy,” Raymond said. “We need to go after major infrastructure upgrades to give the economy the boost it needs.”

The Jobs for Main Street Act sets aside \$27.5 billion for highway projects, and \$8.4 billion for transit, amounts almost equal to the first stimulus bill passed earlier in the year. Amtrak receives \$800 million, and \$500 million goes for airport projects.

For water and wastewater projects, the bill sets aside \$2 billion, to be equally divided between the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

The legislation provides \$4.1 billion for school renovation grants, as well as \$2 billion for affordable housing and public housing projects. On the energy side, the legislation includes \$2 billion for renewable energy and electric transmission projects.

The Senate is expected to act on the jobs bill early in 2010. For more information on the legislation, [click here](#).

We’re Number #1 Again; *Last Word* Earns Top Prize in National Media Contest

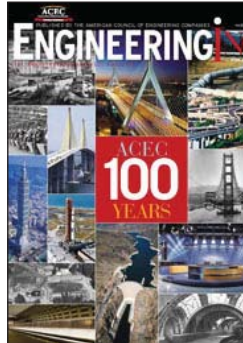
ACEC’s *Last Word* once again has earned a Gold Award as the nation’s best association newsletter in a juried competition sponsored by *Association TRENDS* magazine.

It is the fifth time in six years that ACEC’s primary communications vehicle has received the competition’s top national honor.

ACEC also finished first in the “best manual” category with *Choose Engineering as Your College Major*—which promotes the engineering profession to middle- and high-school students.

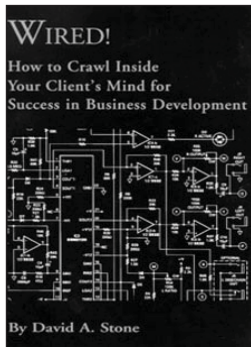
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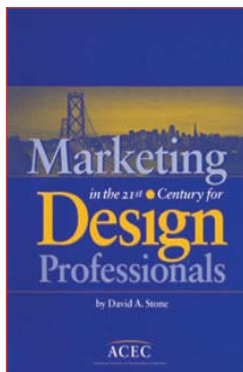
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ACEC's business report, *Health Insurance Coverage for Engineering and A/E/C Firms*, earned second place in the "best manual" category and ACEC's *2009 Business Practice Publications for Professionals* won third place in the "best catalog" category.

ACEC is the all-time winner of communication awards in this competition, according to *Association TRENDS* publisher Jill Cornish.

Concerted Effort Carries Metro Washington Across ACEC/PAC Goal Line

ACEC/Metropolitan Washington became the latest Member Organization to reach its 2009 ACEC/PAC fundraising goal—the fifth consecutive year that Metro Washington made its goal.

"This year we had to push a little harder due to the economy, but the reasons why our members support ACEC/PAC never change—Congress affects our businesses in very real and direct ways," said Co-PAC Champion Philios Angelides of Alpha Corporation in Dulles, Va. "We give because our firm's future is tied directly to federal legislation."



ACEC/Metro Washington PAC Co-Champion Philios Angelides

Added Co-PAC Champion Mike Wiercinski of A. Morton Thomas Associates in Rockville, Md., "To me, it's a simple business decision. If you want a better legislative and regulatory environment for your firm, you contribute to ACEC/PAC. These days, you can't afford not to support the one organization looking out for engineering firms on Capitol Hill."



ACEC/Metro Washington PAC Co-Champion Mike Wiercinski

For more information on ACEC/PAC, or last minute assistance with fundraising, contact either Greg Knopp (executive director political affairs) at gknopp@acec.org or Elizabeth Coit (PAC director) at ecoit@acec.org or at 202-347-7474.

Obama Signs into Law Funding for Key 2010 Infrastructure Programs

Congress came closer to finishing work on the regular spending bills that fund major federal agencies last week, clearing a mammoth appropriations bill that funds key federal infrastructure programs in 2010. President Obama signed the legislation on Wednesday.

The new law provides \$42.8 billion for highways—an increase of \$1 billion above 2009; \$10.7 billion for transit—\$500 million more than 2009; \$3.5 billion for airport improvement grants—the same as last year; \$2.5 billion for high-speed and intercity passenger rail; \$1.6 billion for Amtrak; and \$600 million for U.S. DOT discretionary grants for highway, transit, rail, or port infrastructure projects.

These spending levels are in addition to previously adopted stimulus funds, which may be augmented further by the pending jobs bill (see related story above).

"These are necessary investments that will help to maintain current programs, but they don't mean much without a robust six-year authorization bill that gives states the multi-year funding guarantees they need to move forward with major improvement projects," said ACEC President Dave Raymond.

Pop Quiz Clock

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ACEC JOB BOARD

2009 Volume Discounts for 2010 Recruiting

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As a niche job site, the [ACEC Job Board](#) gives you access to a focused group of qualified engineering talent specific to your needs.

The legislation did not extend the highway and transit authorizations provided under SAFETEA-LU, which are set to expire on December 18. An extension through February of 2010 was included in the Defense appropriations bill, which is expected to receive final congressional passage before the end of the week.

Congress Funds Dept. of Defense, Veteran Affairs' Construction for F.Y. 2010

Congress added \$333.9 million to the Administration's requested funding for several Department of Defense construction programs, while also increasing funds for Department of Veterans Affairs' construction in the recently passed F.Y. 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Bill.

Department of Defense military construction received \$23.3 billion, including \$2.59 billion for family housing. Congress allocated an additional \$1.4 billion for construction in Afghanistan. The legislation also includes \$1.5 billion for environmental remediation, including the removal of debris and unsafe buildings from current and former Defense facilities.

For the Department of Veteran Affairs, the bill provides \$1.9 billion for new construction—up from \$1.67 billion in 2009—and \$100 million to states for extended care facilities.

In addition, the bill gives \$1.3 billion to the General Services Administration for facilities alterations and construction, \$8.6 billion to USAID and \$1.1 billion to the Millennium Challenge Corporation assistance programs.

ACEC INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Stay Prepared or Relax? Public Health Expert Updates H1N1 Pandemic

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Pandemic: An Update

Jan. 12, 1:30-3 p.m.

Dr. Daniel J. Barnett, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, updates his initial insider discussion of last fall to assess the progression and status of the H1N1 ("Swine Flu") pandemic in the U.S. with an online seminar, January 12, from 1:30-3 p.m.

The seminar will focus on the relevant issues for your business planning and continuity of operations in the context of the pandemic's current phase and outlook. Dr. Barnett will update vaccine availability and cover preparedness levels and strategies, including current best-practice guidance for proactive business management of this unique and evolving public health issue. The presentation will include content on the pandemic's physical and psychosocial impacts, and their relevance to business operations, along with prevention and mitigation strategies for occupational settings.

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

Examine Markets, Methods, Tools for Sustainable Projects, New Directions

Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities: Opportunities in New Markets

Feb. 23-26, New Orleans

ACEC again brings together a faculty of leading practitioners, academic and government experts in an exploration of the growing market for sustainable design and construction. *Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities: Opportunities in New Markets*, will be presented in partnership

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ACEC JOB BOARD

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Over 17,000 Searchable Resumes Posted

Over 2,075 Registered Employers

Last Five “Help Wanted” Open Positions:

Sr. Environmental Engineer—
San Diego, CA

Associate Manager of Airport Services—
Syracuse, NY

Sr. Dam Safety Professional—
Golden, CO

Civil/Geotechnical Engineer—
Fort Worth, TX

Technical Consultant MEP for A/E/C Consulting—Dallas, TX

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—**1,524**

Water Resources/Wastewater Engineers—**1,851**

Transportation—**1,538**

Civil Engineers—**2,427**

Structural Engineers—**1,665**

Environmental Engineers—**1,570**

View These Resumes and Jobs on ACEC’s Job Board

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

with Colorado State University, February 23-26 in New Orleans, with curriculum that examines key environmental planning and design processes and showcases applications of sustainable engineering.

Segments of the four-day program add up to a unique practical and systematic examination of the challenges, strategies, tools, and bottom-line opportunities of sustainable facilities and infrastructure markets.

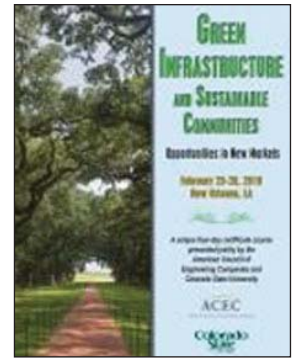
Participants will examine sustainable development within a business context, and topics include:

- Sustainability as Business Strategy
- The Business Case for Delivering Sustainable Projects
- Conducting Sustainability Audits and Assessments for Clients
- Use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Costing
- Risk Management for Sustainable Projects
- Field Trip: Sustainability Principles and Practices in Metro New Orleans
- Sustainable Urban Water Management, Buildings and Transportation Projects

Engineers and planners looking for a course that examines key environmental planning and design processes, and showcases applications of sustainable engineering by some of the leading practitioners in the U.S. will particularly benefit from this unique certificate program.

[Click here](#) for the course brochure with full agenda and faculty details.

To register at the lowest advance price, [click here](#).



Online Seminar Lays out Steps to Successful BIM Implementation

BIM for Bosses

January 19, 2010

One of the industry’s biggest questions gets solid answers in this timely online seminar: “What results should I expect to see from BIM applications that we just bought (or are about to buy)?”

Eric Wing, C&S Companies, paints a realistic picture of what expectations can and should be, and takes participants from How do you start? through What can BIM do for your firm?, your internal systems, your staff and your project proficiency. You’ll get a thorough explanation of benefits and end goal in using BIM firm-wide; the processes needed for a seamless implementation; the steps for changes in hardware, software and network, plus new training and workflow practices that will add-up to success.

And “bosses” will gain a realistic view of what to expect, and what not to expect, once BIM is up and running. This seminar can be an important part of the BIM decision-making and implementation process.

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

Today's Hottest Topics in ACEC Online Seminars

Whether it's an update on the multi-functional know-how you need to manage more successfully, first-hand reports on the newest technology tools and business management strategies, insights from key government insiders, or ideas on how to tap the bottom-line potential of new markets, ACEC's Institute for Business Management is your best resource.

As our 2010 online seminar and course calendars take shape, you're sure to find exactly the right course or seminar for the information you need to succeed... and earn PDHs.

January

19—***BIM for Bosses*** by Eric Wing, C&S Companies

12—***H1N1 (Swine Flu) Pandemic: An Update*** by Dr. Daniel J. Barnett, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

February

2—***Stress Testing for Design Firms—How to See Early Warning Signs and Make Course Corrections*** by Rod Hoffman, S&H Consulting LLC, and Gerry Salontai, Salontai Consulting Group, LLC

10—***Engineering the Smart Grid—New Opportunities for Engineering Firms*** by Richard Zambuni, Bentley Systems and Juan Torres, Iberdrola Engineering and Construction

Insider Online Seminars Available On-Demand

For online "insider" seminars available for purchase as on-demand downloadable events—including *Navigating Wetlands Work: Engineering During a Time of Transition*—[click here](#).

Smart Grid Online Seminar Looks at Benefits, Unique Teaming Opportunities

Engineering the Smart Grid: New Opportunities for Engineering Companies

Feb. 10, 1:30-3 p.m.

The Smart Grid is changing everything for energy utilities.

This timely online seminar examines one of the industry's hottest topics—the Smart Grid. What's hype and what isn't? How and where the Smart Grid will benefit engineering and utilities stakeholder groups?

Participants will learn how the Smart Grid is creating opportunities for engineering firms to team with energy utility owner-operators in re-engineering the grid to meet 21st century needs, through new and more efficient ways to build it more quickly, more efficiently and at lower cost.

Presenters Richard Zambuni, Bentley Systems, and Juan Torres, Iberdrola Engineering and Construction, will present the engineering and the utilities perspectives on the subject. Torres will outline his firm's vision of the Smart Grid and show how it has impacted their approach to substation design and other projects.

Participants in this interactive seminar will:

- Learn about the Smart Grid—hype or reality?
- Examine the physical infrastructure from "source to switch"
- Gain information to leverage Smart Grid funding from owner-operators and governments (Note the Administration's commitment of \$4.5 billion to Smart Grid projects)
- Hear how an international engineering company is taking advantage of Smart Grid opportunities
- Learn how new workflows and new information modeling technology will help engineers in delivering the Smart Grid more efficiently

Engineering firms and consultants working with energy utilities and in environmental sectors will find this seminar of particular value.

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

2010 ACEC Fall Conference Session Proposals Due by Jan. 22

Proposals for session presentations at the 2010 ACEC Fall Conference, set for October 17-20, in Puerto Rico, are being accepted by the ACEC Institute for Business Management.

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. ET, January 22, 2010.

Sessions are to be 75-minute presentations on topic areas under seven different tracks/curriculum areas: Engineering Markets and Issues, Business Management and Finance, Technology and Trends, Engineering Management and Leadership, People and Intangible Assets, Projects and Contracts, and Public Policy and Key Industry Issues. For examples of topics within these areas, plus a summary of the benefits of presenting, the Presentation Proposal Submission Form and requirements, [click here](#).

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