

ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY



By: Kasey Anderson, CAE

As the old adage says, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." That is particularly true when it comes to the role of engineers in government advocacy efforts. ACEC is the voice of the engineering industry – your seat at the table, if you will. Our members

experience first-hand the tremendous impact that state and federal laws and regulations have on the day-to-day operations of engineering firms.

At the state level, ACEC Tennessee actively promotes legislation and policy that improves the business climate for engineering companies and protects the health, safety and welfare of the public, and opposes legislation that burdens the industry or harms the public. Likewise, ACEC's national office aggressively pursues the industry's interests in Congress and with federal regulatory agencies.

Given the breadth of issues that affect our industry, it is essential that ACEC members remain engaged. The following is a brief update of our current efforts in this regard.

NATIONAL ISSUES

ACEC's national office is working with congressional leaders and coalition allies to pass critical legislation and to meet regulatory challenges that will affect every engineering firm, whether practicing in public or private markets, including:

- North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act – This legislation represents a major opportunity to expand energy markets and create new business opportunities for our members
 - Major Regulatory Initiatives, including proposed changes to overtime rules under the Fair Labor Standards Act and to the executive, professional and administration exemption categories
- Infrastructure – focused on legislation to reauthorize and expand aviation programs, including support for airport projects, and working with Congress to facilitate greater use of drones
- New legislation to build on the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).

STATE ISSUES

ACEC/Tennessee has an aggressive legislative agenda in the General Assembly this year covering a number of areas, with 30 bills on our priority list and over 100 that we are closely monitoring, including a number of bills that are broadly captioned. Of particular interest:

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS / STATE BUILDINGS

- Prompt Pay and Clarification of Additional Services in the State Design Contract
- Business Justification Plan for privatization of state facilities
- Reorganization of the state's higher education institutions
- Contracts with minority-owned businesses
- Cooperative Purchasing Agreements
- Residency requirements for construction contracts

GOVERNMENT REGULATION

- Permits under the Water Quality Control Act
- Proposed Municipal Energy Authority Act
- Proposed Tennessee Energy Policy Council
- Property Clean Energy Act
- Fluoride reporting by water treatment plants
- Green infrastructure practices
- Field inspections by the state fire marshal
- Billing for sewer service

TRANSPORTATION/TRANSIT

- Infrastructure Funding: 10+ bills address new funding mechanisms, but there is not currently any comprehensive, sustainable language under consideration
- Transit Initiatives: Several bills that would enable new funding sources for transit initiatives, including the Public-Private Transportation Act of 2016 and new allowances for interest-bearing bonds
- Drones
- Bicycle regulations

While it is vital to have lobbyists with "boots on the ground" in the state legislature and in Congress, ACEC members play a critical role in achieving our governmental advocacy agenda. Stay informed via our Legislative Update, sent weekly during throughout legislative session, and get involved by joining us for Engineers' Day on the Hill on Tuesday, March 8th. And as always, please reach out to me with questions or concerns any time.

ACEC OF TENNESSEE PARTNERS

These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC of Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at www.acectn.org

Crow Friedman Group,
a Risk Strategies Company

Lellyett & Rogers Services

Jacobs Technology

ACEC Business Insurance Trust

ACEC Life/Health Insurance Trust

AE Guidance, LLC

C*Connect

Crom Corporation

Info Tech, Inc.

Lewis, Thomason, King, Kreig & Waldrop

Ryan Search & Consulting

Sherman Dixie Concrete Industries

Smith Cashion & Orr, PLC

Tennessee Concrete Association

TRTH Consulting

United Structural Systems, Inc.

FEBRUARY
22 - 26

Engineers' Week

MARCH
8

Engineers' Day on the Hill,
State Capitol

MARCH
8

Engineering Excellence
Awards Gala

MARCH
9

ACEC of TN Board
Meeting, Franklin Marriott
Cool Springs

APRIL
17 - 20

ACEC Annual Convention
& Legislative Summit
Washington, DC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
John Kenny, PE
Facility Systems Consultants, LLC
Knoxville

President-Elect
Amy Spann, PE
EnSafe Inc., Nashville

First Vice President
Charlie Smith, PE
Barge Waggoner Sumner &
Cannon, Inc., Nashville

Second Vice President
Logan Meeks, PE
A2H, Inc., Memphis

Secretary
Danl Hall, PE
Vaughn & Melton Consulting
Engineers, Inc., Knoxville

Treasurer
Tim Verner, PE
Fisher & Arnold, Inc., Memphis

Past President
Thomas "Chuck" Saunders, PE
Energy Land & Infrastructure LLC,
Nashville

National Director to ACEC
Steve Field, PE
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.,
Nashville

Director at Large
Mickey Sullivan, PE
Gresham, Smith and Partners, Nashville

East Tennessee Chapter President
David Harrell, PE
Vaughn & Melton Consulting
Engineers, Inc., Knoxville

Memphis Chapter President
Diane Vesely, PE
Buchart Horn, Inc., Memphis

Nashville Chapter President
Elizabeth Surface, PE
Ross Bryan Associates, Nashville

Southeast Tennessee Chapter
President
Jamie Blanton, PE
Thompson Engineering, Chattanooga

ACEC STAFF

Kasey Anderson, CAE
Executive Director

Judy Logue
Manager of Member Services

2016 EEA ENTRANTS (BY PROJECT TITLE)

East Tennessee

Banks Avenue Regenerative Stream Restoration, Knoxville, TN, S&ME, Inc. for City of Knoxville

Chattanooga WPA Ditch Program Phase 1, Chattanooga, TN, Amec Foster Wheeler for City of Chattanooga

Harriman Utility Board Water Loss Program, Harriman, TN Cannon & Cannon, Inc. for Harriman Utility Board

Kingsport & Downtown Culvert Inspecting and Assessment, Kingsport, TN LDA Engineering for City of Kingsport

Oak Ridge SSO Program Management, Oak Ridge TN LDA Engineering for City of Oak Ridge

Pigeon Forge Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pigeon Forge, TN, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. for City of Pigeon Forge

University of Tennessee Student Union Phase 1, Knoxville, TN Ross Bryan & Associates, Inc. for Bma-MHM Architects

Widening of US Hwy. 27 (SR 29) Manufacturers Rd. to SR 8, Chattanooga, TN Volkert, Inc. for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Middle Tennessee

46th Avenue & Murphy Road Roundabout & Streetscape, Nashville, TN, RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC for Metro Nashville Public Works

Crossings Circle Transportation Study, Spring Hill, TN, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for City of Spring Hill

John C. Tune Airport Runway Safety Area, Nashville, TN, Atkins North America, Inc. for Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority

Mt. Pleasant Water System Improvements, Mt. Pleasant, TN, Hethcoat & Davis, Inc. for City of Mt. Pleasant

Nashville Fast Fix 8, Nashville TN, TTL, Inc. for Tennessee Department of Transportation

RJ Corman Cumberland River Bridge, Clarksville, TN HDR | ICA Engineering for Montgomery County Rail Service Authority

TDOT Fast Fix 8 Project, Nashville, TN, Gresham, Smith and Partners for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Vanderbilt Powerhouse Gas Conversion, Nashville, TN, I.C. Thomasson Associates, Inc. for Vanderbilt University

West Riverfront Park & Ascend Amphitheater Brownfield Redevelopment, Nashville, TN K.S. Ware & Associates, LLC for Hawkins Partners, Inc.

West Tennessee

Bass Pro at the Pyramid, Memphis, TN, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for O.T. Marshall Architects

Henderson County Stream Restoration, Lexington, TN EnSafe Inc. for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Pacific Industries Manufacturing Facility, Jackson, TN, A2H, Inc. for Pacific Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.

Out-of-State

Community Hazard Assessment & Mitigation Planning System, Frankfort, KY Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM)

Comprehensive Long-Term Environmental Action, Navy, Jacksonville, FL (NAS Cecil Field), EnSafe Inc. for U.S. Department of the Navy BRAC

Honduran School Pedestrian Bridge, San Esteban, Honduras HDR | ICA Engineering for HOI, Inc.

INRD White River Railroad Bridge Replacement, Elnora, IN, Amec Foster Wheeler for Indiana Railroad Company



FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE MONTHLY UPDATE



By: John Kenny, PE
President of ACEC of Tennessee

While January is notoriously a little bit of a more moderate pace as a result of construction slow down due to weather and a re-start after the holidays, things are heating up fast. The legislative session has begun and we have a lot on our plate and plenty to be sorting through. State government appears to have an appetite for change and we certainly have to be paying attention. There are many concepts which

could have substantial positive or negative impacts to our profession. We certainly hope that you regard Engineers' Day on the Hill to be a business priority this year.

Federal Government Advocacy:

- Secured passage of legislation to extend the Export-Import Bank by four years.
- Congress approved new programs (as part of the FAST Act) to enhance the security and resilience of the electrical grid.
- Secured tax legislation to permanently extend the R&D tax credit and higher Section 179 expensing limits; extended bonus depreciation and energy tax credits for five years and the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings deduction for two years.

State Government Advocacy:

- ACEC of Tennessee has been active in review and editing for what has now become SB1672/HB1726. The bill, sponsored by Steve Southerland in the Senate and Charles Sargent in the House has two primary parts. The first part is a prompt payment requirement which would allow State's contracted Designers to be paid monthly in accordance with progress much in the same manner contractors are compensated. The second portion clarifies basic services under the Designer Contract. Recently these services have been varyingly interpreted by the State's user Agencies (STREAM, TBR, UT). This clarification should afford the State better planning, Design

and Construction Administration services and treat Designers more equitably, particularly on complex projects. ACEC of TN representatives have also had meetings with key legislators to discuss the bill.

- The Tennessee General Assembly returned on January 12th. ACEC's Government Advocacy Committee has already been meeting, discussing and voting on proposed legislation as well as beginning the preparation of agendas and talking points for Engineers' Day on the Hill. The event will be on Tuesday, March 8th. Please make plans to attend.

- ACEC of Tennessee representatives Mickey Sullivan, PE (Gresham, Smith & Partners), Kasey Anderson (Executive Director) and I participated with AIA, ABC, and AGC representatives in the Real Estate Process Improvement (REPI) Industry Listening Session at the request of the Director of Real Estate Management Process, Mr. Johnny Stites under the State's Office of Customer Focused Government. The focus of the session was to examine how the State of Tennessee executes real estate capital projects (from Designer selection through Construction) and suggestions for improvement. A follow up session has been slated for March of 2016.

- Recently ACEC of Tennessee subscribed to the Tennessee Legislation Service which provides legislative tracking. The service provides complete and user friendly documentation of proposed legislation through committees. This is intended to increase our efficiency and effectiveness in communicating updates, opportunities and threats to our member firms.

General:

- ACEC of TN's East TN Chapter is having a luncheon on January 26th in conjunction with ASCE and TSPE entitled Financial Considerations for Project Engineers. Sam Mayes of Management Solutions is the presenter.
- Don't forget the 25th Annual Engineering Excellence Awards on March 8th. It is a great pairing with Engineers' Day on the Hill (same day). Make an entertaining night of it in our capitol!

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED MARCH 8

Several hundred Tennessee engineers, public officials and business leaders are expected to attend the Engineering Excellence Awards gala on Tuesday evening, March 8, in Franklin where the winners of the prestigious honors will be announced. Engineering firms from Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville are competing for the top honor, the Grand Iris Award, presented for the project judged best in the overall competition. A Grand Award will be presented in various entry categories at the discretion of the independent panel of judges.

Scott Turnbow, TVA, General Manager of Engineering, will be the featured speaker. A consummate leader and speaker, Scott is a Zig Ziglar Legacy Trainer, Certified John Maxwell Team Member, and entrepreneur. He is acknowledged across industries for effective customer service and leadership, thriving on opportunities to reverse engineer the way business is conducted and regarded as a key contributor, resourceful, and highly valuable team player who provides immeasurable value to customers and protects the company from liability issues.

"On March 8, we will celebrate the engineering profession by spotlighting the contributions engineers make to communities and businesses, and honoring the accomplishments of ACEC of Tennessee member firms," said program chair **Brian Hall, PE, AECOM, Nashville.**

Event co-chair, **Tazio Qubeck, PE, Brown and Caldwell,** expressed his appreciation to the event sponsors (as of February 3) for their generous support. **Platinum Sponsors** – Crow Friedman Group, a Risk Strategies Company, and Kiewit Infrastructure; **Gold Sponsors** – AECOM and Lellyett & Rogers Company; **Silver Sponsors** – Aerial Innovations of TN; Harrison Construction Company; I.C. Thomasson Associates, Inc.; Jacobs Technology; TN Road Builders; WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; Yates Construction **Bronze Sponsors** – ACEC Life Health Trust; AMEC Foster Wheeler; Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon; Bell & Associates Construction; Brown and Caldwell; Cannon & Cannon, Inc.; Crom Corporation; Eco-Tech, Inc.; Ferrell Paving, Inc.; Gresham, Smith and Partners; Guthrie Sales & Service; Hedstrom Design Landscape Architecture; Judy Construction; Kimley-Horn and Associates; P C Construction Company; Sain Associates; S&ME, Inc.; Smith Seckman Reid; The Corradino Group; TTL, Inc.; Volkert, Inc. and Wilmot, Inc.

The Engineering Excellence Awards gala will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner at 7 p.m. and award presentations at 8 p.m. Tickets must be purchased before March 1. To inquire about tickets, contact Judy Logue at (615) 242-2486 or jlogue@t nec.org or go to http://tinyurl.com/o_gxa5r7 for online registration.

ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

The Voice of Tennessee Engineering Companies

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD U.S.
POSTAGE PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 1078

FEBRUARY
2016

INSIDE

- Government Advocacy
- EEA Projects and Sponsors
- Engineers' Day on the Hill

ENGINEERS' DAY ON THE HILL REGISTRATION FORM



CONNECT WITH US



The day will begin at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and a legislative briefing on issues at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown. Participants will be paired with other engineers and armed with position papers and talking points to make visits with legislators.

Your voice is important and DOES make a difference. This is a day that should not be missed!

Yes! I will attend Engineers' Day on the Hill on March 8th

Name

E-mail address

My State Senator

My State Representative

If you don't know your legislators, please provide your home address so that we can look them up.

Please send an email (kanderson@tnec.org) with this information no later than March 1st or complete the form and mail or fax to 615-254-1923 or (ACEC of TN, 800 Fort Negley Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203).