

# ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

## ACEC NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN 2017 TAX AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

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ACEC has expressed strong support for advancing a permanent solution to persistent shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund in the context of debates over tax reform and infrastructure investment proposals. In the run-up to the presidential election, the Council joined 33 other business, labor, transportation and travel groups in urging both major party candidates to include long-term, sustainable transportation-funding measures as part of their infrastructure plans.

Both candidates supported dramatic increases in infrastructure investment during their campaigns, and it has been identified as a likely initiative in the early days of a new administration. "We believe that an infrastructure package needs to include, as a foundation, additional sustainable revenue to ensure the permanent solvency of the Highway Trust Fund," the groups wrote. "The additional revenue sources must be long-term, reliable, dedicated and focused on the users and beneficiaries of our transportation network to support the increased investment provided under your infrastructure proposal."

With the possibility of tax reform on the congressional agenda for 2017, the Council has also highlighted the need for transportation revenue to be included in any tax discussions. In a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee, ACEC and its partners in the Transportation Construction Coalition noted that every adjustment to Highway Trust Fund revenue in the last 30 years has been done in the context of a tax or budget deal. Incorporating transportation funding in a broader tax reform package would allow lawmakers to consider the impact on individuals and the economy while giving state and local agencies the long-term certainty they need to effectively plan and implement their programs. ACEC is encouraging legislators not to wait until the expiration of the FAST Act and another Trust Fund shortfall to pursue solutions to transportation program funding.



ACEC is urging Congress to approve a spending package for F.Y. 2017 that fully meets the funding commitments of the FAST Act. Transportation programs are operating under a short-term "continuing resolution" that holds spending at 2016 levels through Dec. 9. This has temporarily deprived state and local transportation agencies from the funding increases approved under the FAST Act. ACEC and its stakeholder partners in the Transportation Construction Coalition are advocating for passage of a full-year transportation appropriations bill before the end of the calendar year to unlock highway and transit funding increases authorized in the FAST Act for 2017.

The groups are also strongly opposing a \$2.2 billion rescission of unspent highway funding authority that was included in the Senate-passed version of the bill. Such a measure would impede the ability of states to allocate federal funds to meet their program needs. The House version of the bill did not rescind any highway funds. "The FAST Act was an important step forward to assuring states and the private sector the federal government is a reliable partner in our shared effort to improve the nation's surface transportation network," the coalition wrote in a letter to every member of Congress. "Timely enactment of a F.Y. 2017 transportation appropriations bill that fully funds the FAST Act's highway and transit authorizations and contains no rescission of unobligated highway contract authority would help ensure that progress continues."

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

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**13**

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**8**

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**MARCH**  
**7**

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## 2017 EEA PROJECT ENTRIES (BY PROJECT TITLE)

**11th Avenue Complete Street**, Nashville, TN  
RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC

**3rd and 4th Street Improvements Project  
Masterplan**, Chattanooga, TN  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

**Bronson Field PFC Investigation**, Pensacola, FL  
EnSafe Inc.

**Chemical Feed Upgrades and Miscellaneous  
Plant Improvements**, Nashville, TN  
Gresham, Smith and Partners

**HCA Parallon Headquarters**, Nashville, TN  
TTL, Inc.

**Knox Co. Strategic Transportation Safety Plan**,  
Knoxville, TN  
CDM Smith

**Lake Road Distribution Topo**, Cleveland, TN  
Power Consulting Associates, LLC

**Lawrenceburg West Bypass (US 64/SR 15)**,  
Lawrenceburg, TN  
HMB Professional Engineers, Inc.

**Main St. to Main St. Multimodal Connector Project**,  
Memphis, TN  
Allen & Hoshall, Inc.

**Memphis Land Bank Uptown**, Memphis, TN  
EnSafe Inc.

**Memphis Zoo Zambezi River Hippo Camp Exhibit**,  
Memphis, TN  
A2H, Inc.

**Nashville International Airport Geothermal System**,  
Nashville, TN  
Garver

**Pilot and Full-Scale Disinfection Evaluation for the  
Stiles and Maxson WWTF's**, Memphis, TN  
CDM Smith

**Renovation of the Historic George Reyer Pump  
Station and Omohundro Boiler House**, Nashville, TN  
K. S. Ware & Associates, LLC

**Sligo Bridge Erection**, Smithville, TN  
Alfred Benesch & Company

**SR-25 ABC in a Rural Environment**, Gallatin, TN  
Gresham, Smith and Partners

**Suttree Landing Park**, Knoxville, TN  
Cannon & Cannon, Inc.

**TDOT Diverging Diamond Interchange at SR-66:  
Exit 407**, Knoxville, TN  
Gresham, Smith & Partners

**TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Plan**,  
Across Tennessee  
RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC

**Tennessee Riverwalk**, Chattanooga, TN  
Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.

**The Knox Student Housing**, Knoxville, TN  
Cannon & Cannon, Inc.

**TVA Gallatin Environmental Integrity Program**,  
Gallatin, TN  
AECOM

**University of Memphis RR Pedestrian Crossing**,  
Memphis, TN  
Allen & Hoshall, Inc.

**University of Tennessee Knoxville – Facilities  
Systems**, Knoxville, TN  
Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.

**USACE MMC Precip Tool – Automating PMP Calcs**,  
Vicksburg, MS  
Amec Foster Wheeler

**Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Improvements**,  
Nashville, TN  
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

**West Prong Stream Bank Restoration**,  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
S&ME, Inc.

**Wilcox Boulevard Tunnel Modifications**,  
Chattanooga, TN  
Volkert, Inc.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## THE MONTHLY UPDATE



By: Amy Spann, PE  
President of ACEC Tennessee

It's the time of year where we express thanksgiving and reflect on the year we had and the year that is yet to be. With that, I want to thank everyone in ACEC for their continued time, service, and support. Thank you for your many hours spent in committee meetings, board meetings, meetings with state and local government officials, being on the lookout for emerging issues facing our profession, and advancing our industry. Thank you to our ACEC members, partners, and the employers who donate time and money – we could not do this without you.

Membership is the core of our strength and with the diversity of specialties, diversity of firm sizes, diversity of locations, and diversity of interests, ACEC provides value in numerous ways. I'm excited about the New Year and the work we are doing to enhance communication and encourage member engagement in specific areas of interest, whether it's government affairs, business resources and education, leadership programs, committees, or the Life/Health Trust. ACEC has a place for all to get involved and I encourage participation this coming year.

As we look forward to 2017 and the new opportunities it

brings, ACEC at the National level is continuing to focus on infrastructure funding for transportation and water resources, public-private partnership contacts, procurement issues related to QBS and FAR compliance, emerging tax regulations, energy legislation and permitting, environmental regulatory changes, building code modifications, and liability protection.

ACEC Tennessee is focused on the same issues as we anticipate our own transportation funding efforts with the potential for new transit opportunities and alternative methods to join forces of local communities, non-profit organizations, and interested parties to enhance transportation across the state. This is just one of many legislative issues we are tracking and we need your voice to be heard. I encourage everyone to turn out in full force on March 7 for Day on the Hill as it is important to support the efforts that are in process throughout the year.

While we give thanks and look toward new beginnings, we want to express our sympathy to those affected by the East Tennessee fires. We have members of the ACEC family in the area with friends and neighbors that were impacted and we extend heartfelt condolences at this time to everyone in those communities.

## EEA JUDGING TEAM NAMED

Although all the entries for the Engineering Excellence Awards are deserving, there can only be one Grand Iris winner awarded. The group charged with making that choice has now been named. A team of ten will convene at the Tennessee Engineering Center on February 8th to look over project information and ultimately determine the winners. Twenty-eight projects are competing for top honors this year. The winners will be announced at the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee, on March 7, 2017. The judges for the 2017 Engineering Excellence Awards are:

**Robert Day**, retired, SunTrust Private Wealth Management

**Pat Flood, PE**, Director, Division of Solid Waste Management, TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation

**Alan Hill**, Regional Director, External Affairs, AT&T

**Dr. Andy Hissam**, Team Lead for the Propulsion Detailed Design Branch (ER34), NASA

**Wes Kelley**, Executive Director, Columbia Power and Water System

**Tom Needham, PE**, Director, Shelby County Public Works

**Pat Phillips**, President, Loudon County Economic Development

**Lezlie Rupert**, Deputy Administrator, TN Department of Transportation

**David Salyers, PE**, Executive Director, West TN River Basin Authority

**Matt Turner, PE**, Mississippi Valley Division Regional Integration Team, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District

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(as of December 2016)

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### **Gold**

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### **Silver**

Aerial Innovations of TN, Inc.  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

### **Bronze**

Cortek Drilling  
Tri State Drilling, LLC

## MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Solomon Akinduro of ACOT Associates has been selected as the President Elect of the Engineers' Club of Memphis for 2017.

JANUARY  
2017

## INSIDE

- ACEC National Highlights Long-Term Transportation Needs in 2017 Tax and Infrastructure Plans
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### HAPPY NEW YEAR



By: Kasey Anderson, CAE  
Executive Director of ACEC Tennessee  
kanderson@t nec.org

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's often hard to find time for quiet reflection, but today I am sitting in my office at the TEC appreciating a few moments to do just that. I am awed by what I see around me. Out my window there is a freight train moving at a slow and steady pace. Above it, traffic is traveling along the interstate briskly. And right beyond that, I see the downtown skyline, with seven cranes in plain view. At the Adventure Science Center, the line of families with young children is out the door, anxiously awaiting a day of hands-on activities. All of this indicates to me that the engineering industry is alive and well in Tennessee.

As we enter 2017, we know there is much to be done. The 110th General Assembly convenes on January 10th, and Legislative Plaza will be a flurry of activity. ACEC anticipates a hefty legislative agenda again this year, and your attention and support will be critical to our success. Your Governmental Advocacy Committee is hard at work developing this session's agenda, and we will be reading every bill that is filed between now and the deadline in early February. Should you have any comments that might be helpful for the committee to consider, please let me know.

Comprehensive, sustainable transportation funding continues to be our top priority. The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee (of which ACEC Tennessee is a founding

member) has been pushing this effort for several years, and Governor Haslam, Senator Jim Tracy, and Commissioner Schroer have crossed the state numerous times holding town hall meetings and listening sessions. While some have questioned public will, a recent poll conducted by Vanderbilt University showed that 67 percent of Tennesseans favor a 2-cent per gallon tax increase, 55 percent favor an 8-cent increase, and 47 percent favor a 15-cent increase to improve our state's roads and bridges. There is much work to do, but we are optimistic that our legislators understand the central role sustainable infrastructure plays in the continued success of Tennessee's economy and will take action this year.

I hope at this point you're wondering, "How can I help?" I'm so glad you asked. For starters, make sure you are reading the "Legislative Update" that will hit your inbox each Friday. It will include updates on the status of important bills as they move through committees, a schedule of our bills for the following week, and easy access to comprehensive information on every bill we are following for those looking for more. Additionally, please keep your eyes out for Calls to Action. These emails are much less frequent, but typically urgent in nature, and a rapid response is important.

Lastly, please make plans to join us for **Engineers' Day on the Hill** on **Tuesday, March 7th**. The registration form can be found under Current Events at [acectn.org](http://acectn.org). Your voice matters, and your attendance makes an enormous difference. Help us continue the momentum and have a successful 2017.

Happy New Year!