

# The Voice

# VOICE

MAY 2013

**ACEC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## Cooperative Effort Means Cleaner Air, Reduced Traffic for Memphians

by: James Collins, Senior Vice President,  
Kimley-Horn and Associates

Memphis area citizens will find cleaner air and less traffic congestion thanks to a cooperative effort among all of the jurisdictions in Shelby County. In 1993, the Memphis area was declared to be in non-attainment for carbon monoxide and ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since then, the local jurisdictions have undertaken a program to improve air quality and achieve attainment status through a series of projects and programs.

One of the major sources of the poor air quality at that time was cars and trucks, otherwise known as mobile sources. The primary connection between mobile source emissions and poor air quality is idling vehicles. If the surface streets in the area could be made to operate more efficiently, congestion could be reduced, idling could be reduced, and air quality could be improved. The transportation community seized the

opportunity to improve air quality while reducing congestion.

A cooperative effort among all of the local jurisdictions in Shelby County was led by the City of Memphis and the Shelby County Government. Using the structure of the Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization, the engineers and planners in all of the communities in Shelby County identified a program to address these issues. The program was initiated by the development of a county-wide master plan that identified the users, the needs and goals of those users, and a systematic approach to achieving those goals.

Building on the framework of the Memphis Central Business District signal system, a plan was developed to extend the fiber optic communications system throughout the county. The extension of this communication

system would ultimately allow the local agencies to monitor the operations of all of their traffic signals, adjust the operations of these signals, and provide remote maintenance. A backbone

communications system was defined that would be independent of technology

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*"These improvements and signal coordination efforts will result in a 40 percent reduction in delays, while stopping hundreds of tons of pollutants from being expelled into the air..."*

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## Let's Hit a Home Run

by Steven Field, PE  
President, ACEC of Tennessee

Spring is upon us. Baseball players from the little league to the major league are dreaming of wins, championships, the excitement of being on a team, and making a difference. Engineers share the same dreams. We all



Steven Field

strive to make a difference for our clients and organizations, and so does ACEC of Tennessee. Over the next few weeks, members will have the opportunity to request assignment to one of our many committees, including:

- Transportation
- Environment and Energy
- Engineering Excellence
- Government Advocacy
- Public Relations
- Business Practices/Leadership
- Chapter Development/Membership
- Interprofessional

These committees give engineers the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other engineers and clients, further the engineering profession positively in Tennessee, and celebrate our accomplishments. For committee charges and a committee request form, please visit [www.acectn.org/Committees.htm](http://www.acectn.org/Committees.htm). The request forms are due on **May 15, 2013**.

Many important issues will be addressed in the upcoming year and we are constantly looking for new ideas.

One such issue is the importance of our public infrastructure. This includes the roads we travel, the dams that provide our power, our flood protection and water sources, water treatment and distribution systems, waste water collection and treatment, and electric generation and distribution, just to name a few. Bridge collapses. Broken water mains. Rolling blackouts. Traffic congestion.

Our aging and over-worked infrastructure is in peril due to lack of focus and funds. Increasingly there are strong indications that without attention, the economic effects due to major disruption could be devastating. Agencies across Tennessee and the nation, along with many outstanding and dedicated employees, are striving every day to maintain our infrastructure and make it the best it can be.

ACEC of Tennessee is at work to provide leadership in these areas and to increase awareness of these issues. We are motivated to help focus our leaders' attention, ensuring a world-class infrastructure that lessens the impact on our bottom line, improves our quality of life, and ultimately helps drive economic growth.

The key to our success is you. By supporting ACEC of Tennessee's efforts to promote the engineering profession in each of these areas you are going to bat for a winning team. Now, let's hit a home run!

## Cooperative Effort (cont. from page 1)

advances, allowing the agencies to take advantage of new and emerging technologies for years to come.

Currently, the City of Memphis and Shelby County are in various stages of implementing improvements to more than 500 intersections that will improve the operation of those traffic signals and allow for the coordination of traffic signals along more than 30 corridors. These improvements and signal coordination efforts will result in a 40 percent reduction in delays, while stopping hundreds of tons of pollutants from being expelled into the air every day.

These improvements will continue to contribute to better air quality, reduction in traffic delays, and reductions in congestion on the roads in the Memphis and Shelby County area for many years to come.

## MEMBER NEWS

A2H, Inc. welcomes three new members to its Lakeland, Tennessee, office:

- **David Smith, Ph.D., PE**, joins A2H as an Environmental Engineer
- **Mike Yohanek, CPA**, joins the A2H accounting team
- **Christina Babu** joins A2H as Marketing and Communications Specialist

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. has named four new Vice Presidents to its board:

- **Steven Edwards, PE, LEED, AP**, Nashville, TN
- **David Korda, PE**, Knoxville, TN
- **Kevin Lindsay, RA**, Birmingham, AL
- **David Winter, PG**, Nashville, TN



## ACEC of TN Goes to Washington

A team of representatives from ACEC of TN travelled to Washington recently for the ACEC Annual Convention & Legislative Summit. The group was able to sit down with Congressmen Jimmy Duncan and Phil Roe; they also met with staff in the offices of Congressmen Blackburn, Black, and Cooper and Senators Corker and Alexander. Pictured left to right are: Jason Brooks, PE, LDA Engineering; Candy Toler, Congressman Duncan, and David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers. Also attending the conference were: Steve Field, PE, Stantec; Everett Cowan, PE, AE Guidance; Jim Morinec, PE, AECOM; Bill Johnson, PE, Arcadis; Jerry Stump, PE, Volkert; and Lamar Dunn, PE, LDA Engineering.

## TEF Scholarships Awarded

Scholarships totaling \$9,500 were recently awarded to three Tennessee engineering students by the Tennessee Engineering Foundation.

Rebecca Escue, Portland, TN, won the \$3,500 Dorothy and Arthur Crouch Memorial Scholarship. Escue is a junior at Tennessee Technological University studying mechanical engineering.

Dustin Morris, Lewisburg, TN, won a \$3,000 scholarship. Morris is a junior at Tennessee Technological University studying electrical engineering.

Nicholas True, Georgetown, TN, received a \$3,000 scholarship from the TEF. True is a sophomore studying mechanical engineering at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



David Harrell, President Elect, delivered Caleb Drummer's ACEC of TN scholarship check recently. Pictured left to right are: Dr. Wayne Davis, Dean of UT College of Engineering; Caleb Drummer; David Harrell; Dr. Dayakar Penumadu, Civil Engineering Department Head; and Dr. Masood Parang, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## ACEC of TN Officers Voting Open

Last month, ACEC of Tennessee member firm representatives received ballots for the 2013-2014 board officers. The candidates for each office were selected by the nominating committee chaired by Steve Bostic. The ballots must be returned on or before May 15, 2013.

As President-elect, David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc., Knoxville, will automatically become President.

**President Elect - Chuck Saunders, PE, Fisher & Arnold, Inc., Nashville**

**First Vice President - John Kenny, PE, Facility Systems Consultants, LLC, Knoxville**

**Second Vice President - Joe Ledford, PE, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc., Knoxville**

**Secretary - Amy Spann, PE, EnSafe Inc., Nashville**

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

**Director at Large - Patrick Neal, PE, Pickering Firm, Inc., Memphis**

**Immediate Past President Steven Field, PE, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Nashville**

New officers will assume their positions on July 1. They will be formally sworn into office during the Annual Meeting in September.

## CALENDAR

**MAY  
27**

ACEC of TN/TSPE

Offices Closed

Memorial Day Holiday

**JUNE  
19**

ACEC of TN PR

Committee Meeting

TN Engineering Center

**JULY  
4**

ACEC of TN/TSPE

Office Closed

Independence Day

**SEPTEMBER  
12-13**

TSPE/ACEC/ASCE

Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites

Murfreesboro

**OCTOBER  
27-30**

ACEC Fall Conference

Scottsdale, AZ

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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**MAY 2013**

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## Welcome, New Member!

Civil & Environmental  
Consultants, Inc.  
405 Duke Street, Suite 270  
Franklin, TN 37067  
(615) 333-7794  
www.cecinc.com

### Key Contact:

Kevin Wolfe, PE  
Vice President  
kwolfe@cecinc.com

Civil & Environmental  
Consultants, Inc. (CEC),  
provides a broad range of  
environmental and  
engineering services to  
business and industry. CEC  
specializes in civil/site  
engineering, environmental  
engineering, ecological  
studies, waste management,  
and water resources.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Washington, Nashville, and Points In Between

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

**W**e have much to report on the legislative front . . .

A delegation of about a dozen members and spouses attended the ACEC Convention and Legislative Summit April 21-24 in Washington.



Candy Toler

We made visits to our federal legislators and their staffs. The issues addressed may sound familiar:

- we promoted support for meeting America's energy needs by approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline and expanded domestic production of all energy sources;
- we encouraged adoption of a multi-year transportation authorization bill that maintains current funding levels plus inflation;
- we requested protecting and strengthening procurement for engineering services in the private sector; and

- we supported enactment of a WIFIA loan program to give communities an additional mechanism to fund water projects and requested an increase in appropriations for the water and wastewater state revolving funds.

I hope you will join us in 2014—it will be April 27-30—for the ACEC Convention and Legislative Summit. It is a great opportunity to connect with our federal lawmakers and talk about engineering issues.

While ACEC of TN representatives were lobbying in Washington, things wound down at the State Capitol. The Tennessee General Assembly has finished its business and adjourned for 2013. No action was taken on the legislation which engineers opposed this session – that's a good thing! We will be working with the State Fire Marshal and other interested groups to develop acceptable rules to address seismic issues that protect the health and safety of the public. If you would like more information about the legislation, send me an email (ctoler@tcec.org).

ACEC of TN has been and will continue to promote engineers and engineering at all levels of government. You, too, can participate!