

Welcome to ACEC/MO's Newsletter! With this email, you'll receive all of the top updates in our organization, as well as new features.

This newsletter will provide an update on our organization. Check your email often for more updates.

Items included in this ACEC/MO Newsletter are listed below.

- **ACEC/MO President's Report**
- **Upcoming Events** (*Join Your Fellow Professionals for Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol on January 31; Register Now for ACEC/MO's 2024 Future Leaders Academy; Save the Date for ACEC/MO's Winter Meeting & Awards Banquet on February 29-March 1, 2024*)
- **Liaison Committee News** (*Missouri Department of Transportation (HQ) Liaison Committee Meeting*)
- **Industry News** (*R&D Amortization: ACEC Member Action Needed Now; Refresher on Contract Provisions for Design Professionals; Unfortunate Truths*)
- **Member Information & Calendar** (*Request for QBS Nominations; More Member Renewals for 2023-2024; New Member Firm Welcomed; Member News; Calendar of Events*)

If there is something you would like us to include in the newsletter, or if you need anything else, please contact the ACEC/MO staff: [Morgan Mundell](#) or [Dawn \(Hill\) Danison](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

R&D Amortization: ACEC Member Action Needed Now

Congress returns this week and there are still legislative opportunities to fix R&D amortization before the end of 2023. We are asking ACEC members to contact their Members of Congress and stress the urgency of acting now.

House and Senate tax-writers are negotiating a compromise tax package that would include a multi-year fix to R&D amortization, as well as other business and family tax provisions. We need your Representative and Senators to ask congressional leaders to attach this package to legislation that will get to the President's desk before the end of the year.

Congress needs to understand the urgency of fixing R&D amortization now. **Even if you contacted your Members of Congress earlier this year, we need you to take action again.**

[Click Here to Contact Your Representative and Senators](#)

ACEC/MO President's Report



ACEC/MO President's Report

Today is December 1st, the start of pre-filing for the legislative session. This year the House of Representatives is starting Appropriations hearings in December, with the Subcommittee on Appropriations - Transportation meeting on December 13th.

Missourians for Transportation Investment held their annual Policy Retreat last month and we adopted our policy priorities for 2024. The priorities are as follows:

Interstate Funding

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports further investments of General Revenue to continue the commitment

to rehabilitate and expand Interstate 70 across the state of Missouri. We recommend the expansion take place in the median as much as possible to lessen the impact on private property.

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports utilizing existing state surplus revenues, general revenues, and financing to expedite needed improvements to Interstate 44 including expansion across the state. We recommend the expansion take place in the median as much as possible to lessen the impact on private property.

Transportation Revenues

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports the continued implementation of current state motor fuel tax law to make Missouri roads safer, reduce congestion, and make the movement of freight more efficient in, through, and out of Missouri.
- Missourians for Transportation Investment recommends that the General Assembly, MODOT and other state agencies work together to establish a policy through which declining transportation revenue sources are replenished.

Low-volume Roads

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports increased safety and quality investments in Missouri's low-volume rural roads, which provide important farm-to market routes in support of Missouri agriculture.

Public Transportation

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports a \$11.7 million funding request, which includes \$10 million from General Revenue and \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund, to be divided among the state's transit providers.

Ports & Waterways

- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports a \$16.8 million investment from General Revenue for projects identified by the Missouri Port Authority Association FY25 Capitol Improvement Project List. Furthermore, we support an appropriation of \$700,000 for Port Administrative Funds and \$300,000 for preliminary engineering at Missouri ports.
- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports investment in the Lower Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP) Feasibility Study. This investment will serve as a non-federal match for the study, which will influence Congressional authorization to improve navigation on the Missouri River.

Safety

- Missourians for Transportation investment supports a \$50 million investment for rail crossing safety improvements to provide greater safety measures at many of Missouri's rail and highway crossings and to increase the number of crossings with active warning devices.
- Missourians for Transportation Investment supports legislation that would require a mandatory minimum fine of \$1,000 for endangerment of a highway worker, \$5,000 for aggravated endangerment of a highway worker if a worker is injured, and \$10,000 if a worker is killed. The proposal also ensures that



Refresher on Contract Provisions for Design Professionals

In the ever-changing construction climate, the one constant for the design professional is a strong contract. The ACEC Business Insurance Trust is hosting a webinar titled "**Provisions of a Strong Contract**," which will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 3:00 PM.**

This one-hour webinar, featuring The Hartford's Architects and Engineers Professional Liability Claims Team, will walk you through various contract provisions so you can more easily identify the risks associated with eliminating or modifying certain contractual elements:

- Standard of Care
- Indemnification
- Scope of Services
- Limitations of Liability, and more

To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

Unfortunate Truths

by Mark Zweig, Zweig Group

A lack of willingness to confront these things honestly has caused way too much frustration and unhappiness in the individuals who work in our organizations.

Like it or not, there are many "unfortunate truths" we don't really want to tell our employees. A lack of willingness to confront these things honestly has caused (and will continue to cause) way too much frustration and unhappiness in the

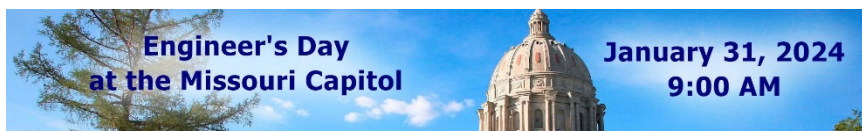
striking a truck- or trailer-mounted attenuator (TMA) constitutes endangerment of a highway worker.

I would like to thank Kevin Wallace from HNTB, Howard Gotschall from Hanson Professional Services, Dan Meckes from Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, and Agnes Otto from Burns & McDonnell for participating in the retreat.

Olsson Engineering will be hosting an ACEC/MO Regional Coffee in Joplin on December 8th. Our special guests will be Representative Cody Smith, House Budget Committee Chair, and Representative Dirk Deaton, House Budget Committee Vice Chair. We have 30 people who have RSVP'd for this event, so we expect a great conversation. If you would like to attend, please [click this link](#) for more information and to RSVP.

For the second consecutive year, ACEC/MO, APWA, ASCE and MSPE are partnering to conduct "Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol" on January 31st. The purpose of this day is to educate legislators on the important and diverse roles that engineers play in our community, and to increase our presence and voice in the public policy process. We will start this year on the 1st Floor Rotunda where we have invited Representatives Bromley, Brown, Voss, and Mayhew to give remarks. All four are engineers. We will then move to the Senate gallery where we will be introduced as a group to the entire Senate body. You will then have time for personal meetings with your House and Senate members. At Noon we will head to Capitol Plaza for an ACEC/MO fundraising lunch with Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe. Please visit [this link](#) to RSVP for the lunch and to learn more. And thank you to the 8 ACEC/MO member firms who have already stepped up to the plate to help sponsor this event. Following lunch, Governor Mike Parson will join ACEC/MO members at Capitol Plaza and deliver remarks on the importance of infrastructure funding and his 2024 initiatives regarding workforce development and infrastructure funding. This will literally be days after his State of the State Address. We ask that you [RSVP for Engineer's Day](#) by **January 19th** so that staff can plan accordingly for logistics. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join Your Fellow Professionals for Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol on January 31

ACEC/MO, APWA, ASCE and MSPE are partnering to conduct an "Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol" scheduled for **January 31, 2024, at 9:00 AM**. The purpose of this day is to educate legislators on the important and diverse roles that engineers play in our community,

individuals who work in our organizations. That leads to reduced productivity and turnover, along with low growth and poor financial performance in many AEC firms. Here are some of these unfortunate truths:

1. **"If you aren't here, your career growth will be stymied."** This is in reference to those people who want to work from home versus coming into the office. We may be able to accommodate you, but there is a price you will pay for not being here and being exposed to the chatter and being seen by management.
2. **"Technical and design skills alone are not sufficient if you want to make more money working here."** You could be the world's best mechanical engineer but that isn't all we need here. We need people [...]

To read the full article, [click here](#).

MEMBER INFORMATION & CALENDAR

QBS NOMINATIONS WANTED

Request for QBS Nominations

The ACEC/MO QBS Award was established to recognize outstanding support of the Qualifications-Based Selection procedures. The contributions can be made in many forms but must embody a commitment to and support and promotion of QBS. We give an annual award in the categories of government and non-government.

and to increase our presence and voice in the public policy process. Below is the current schedule of events for the day. The below photo is from our Engineer's Day in 2023. We had an excellent turnout and hope to exceed that in 2024. The deadline to register is January 19, 2024.

Schedule

9:00 AM – Meet in 1st Floor Rotunda - We will hear comments from Representatives Don Mayhew, Bob Bromley, John Voss and Donnie Brown

10:00 AM – We will proceed as a group to the 4th floor Senate Gallery, where we will be introduced to the Senate

12:00 PM – ACEC/MO is hosting a separate lunch at Capitol Plaza Hotel for Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe (*you must register separately for this event*)

1:00 PM – Governor Mike Parson is joining us immediately following the lunch (at the Capitol Plaza Hotel), and will deliver remarks on the importance of infrastructure funding and his 2024 initiatives regarding workforce development and infrastructure funding

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[Click Here to Register for Engineer's Day at the Capitol](#)

[Click Here to Register for Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe Lunch or for Information on Sponsorships for this Event](#)



Register Now for ACEC/MO's 2024 Future Leaders Academy

Does your firm have a candidate for ACEC/MO's 2024 Future Leaders Academy (FLA)? Registration for the FLA program is now

If you work with a public or private client that you want to submit a nomination form for, go to [ACEC/MO's website](#). The deadline to submit a nomination form is **December 29, 2023**. The award will be given during ACEC/MO's Winter Meeting on February 29, 2024, in St. Louis.

THANK YOU!

More Member Renewals for 2023-2024

Thank you to the following member firms and associate members that have renewed since we sent our last newsletter. Thank you for your membership renewal and your investment in ACEC/MO for the 2023-2024 year. Your support allows us to remain committed to you as the business voice of the engineering industry.

MEMBER FIRMS:

AECOM • TREKK Design Group, LLC

WELCOME

New Member Firm Welcomed

We want to welcome the following new member firm to the Council and hope you will too.

Lee & Company LLC

1612 E. Elm Street
Harrisonville, MO 64701
Phone: (816) 805-3546
Contact: Gary M. Lee

MEMBER NEWS

Member News

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. is pleased to announce the

open. The dates for the 2024 FLA program are set for May 22-23 in Kansas City; June 5-6 in St. Charles; July 16-17 in Columbia; and August 21-23 in Osage Beach.

The FLA is an extensive leadership program for young leaders in private consulting firms committed to developing their leadership abilities. The program is most beneficial to those participants with approximately 8-15 years of industry experience. These highly interactive sessions are taught by experts in the field of business administration and people management in professional service firms.

Registration information is posted on our [website](#). To register for the 2024 FLA Program, [click here](#). We only have 20 spots available and already have 15 spots filled. If you want a spot in the 2024 class, please send in your registration form or contact the ACEC/MO office at 573-634-4080 or email DawnHill@acecmo.org to hold a spot for your firm.



Save the Date for ACEC/MO's Winter Meeting & Awards Banquet on February 29-March 1, 2024

Make plans now to attend ACEC/MO's Winter Meeting & Awards Banquet scheduled for **February 29-March 1, 2024**, at the **Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark** in St. Louis. Listed below is a draft agenda for the meeting. Our goal is to send out registration information next week so be looking for that information soon.

HOTEL INFORMATION: The meeting will be held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, 1 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102. We have a block of sleeping rooms set up at a rate of \$199.00. To make your sleeping room reservation, call (314) 421-1776 or 800-581-7151 and give them the code of "ACEC" to book your room. Our block of rooms will be held until Friday, February 1, 2024, so please reserve your room by that date.

- TENTATIVE AGENDA -

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

10:15 AM - Environmental Committee Meeting
10:15 AM - Transportation Committee Meeting
12:00 PM - Luncheon / QBS Awards / Speaker
1:15 PM - CEO Roundtable (Small/Medium Firms & Medium/Large Firms)
6:00 PM - Awards Reception & Banquet

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

8:00 AM - Breakfast / Speaker
9:15 AM - The Four Project Management Realities All Consulting Firms Face Seminar - *Speakers: Kevin Corwin & Mark Meyer, InScope*
11:00 AM - Board of Directors / Membership Meeting

following: **Jay Rakers, PE**, has been named the 2023 Professional Engineer of the Year; and **Jacque Knight, AICP**, has earned the 2023 John Collins Service Award, presented to APWA members who have shown exceptional dedication and committed service to the Missouri Chapter and St. Louis Branch throughout their careers. They were both recognized and awarded during the American Public Works Association (APWA) Missouri Chapter Fall Conference on November 3, 2023.

GREDELL Engineering Resources, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of **Jacob Wolken**, Environmental Scientist, to their team.

Lochmueller Group is excited to announce that **Colin Schroeder, PE, ENV SP**, received the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) certification.

TREKK Design Group, LLC is pleased to Congratulate Survey Crew Chief, **Jefferson Powers**, for receiving his Professional Land Surveyor license.

Calendar of Events

2024

January 31 - Engineers Day at the Capitol, Jefferson City

February 29-March 1 - ACEC/MO Winter Meeting & Awards Banquet, St. Louis

May 6 - 3rd Annual ACECMO/PAC Golf Tournament, Sunrise Beach

May 22-23 - Future Leaders Academy, Kansas City

June 5-6 - Future Leaders Academy, St. Charles

June 12-14 - ACEC Midwest States Conference, Kansas City

July 16-17 - Future Leaders Academy, Columbia

August 21-23 - Future Leaders Academy, Osage Beach

LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWS



Missouri Department of Transportation

Missouri Department of Transportation (HQ) Liaison Committee Meeting

The Missouri Department of Transportation (HQ) / ACECMO Liaison Committee met on November 16, 2023. Committee members in attendance were Kevin Fuller, Bob Gilbert, Vicki LaRose, Chris Linneman, Aaron McVicker, Melissa Rettig, Anne Schroer, and Frank Weatherford. Items discussed during the meeting included:

- MoDOT Staff Changes
- I-70 and I-44 Updates
- Updated MoDOT Consultant Services 6-Month Outlook
- Diversity Scoring Criteria / Implementation
- MoDOT Considering Current Workload in Selections
- Construction Services - Set up Liaison Committee
- Construction Phase Support
- Traffic Control Subs
- ORD Use Issues
- Standard Contract Revisions
- MoDOT Project Scheduling Update.

The next meeting will be scheduled for some time in early 2024. To see the complete minutes from this meeting, [click here](#). You can also see minutes from the most recent meetings posted on [ACEC/MO's website](#).

August 21-23 - ACEC/MO Summer Meeting & ACEC/PAC Golf Tournament, Osage Beach
November 7-8 - ACEC/MO Fall Mtg. & 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament, Columbia

2025

February 27-28 - ACEC/MO Winter Meeting & Awards Banquet, Kansas City
June 4-6 - ACEC Midwest States Conference - Location TBD

Newly added events are italicized. To see a complete calendar of events, go to [ACEC/MO's website](#).

*Change of address, email, or any information? You will need to login to your profile in our member portal through our website. **Your username is dawnhill@acecmo.org.***