

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Kansas

ACEC of Kansas Member Firms

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Affinis Corp.
Allgeier Martin & Associates, Inc.
Allied Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc.
Baughman Company, P.A.
BG Consultants, Inc.
Black & Veatch
BRB Contractors, Inc.
Brungardt Honomichl & Company, P.A.
Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation
Burns & McDonnell Engineers
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.
Campbell, Barber, Lambeth & Associates, P.A.
CAS Construction, Inc.
Central Kansas Engineering Consultants, LLC
Certified Engineering Design
Cohorst Engineering & Surveying, Inc.
Cook, Flatt & Strobel Engineers, PA
Cornerstone Engineering Company
Delich, Roth & Goodwillie, P.A.
Engineering Resources
Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Associates, P.A.
FBS Engineers, Inc.
Garver, Inc.
George Butler Associates, Inc.
Geotechnology, Inc.
Goedecke Engineering
Haris Engineering, Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
HNTB Corporation
HWS Consulting Group, Inc.
K.E. Miller Engineering, P.A.
Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc.
Kirkham, Michael & Associates, Inc.
KLA Environmental Services, Inc.
Kleinfelder
Kramer Engineering, P.A.
Krudwig & Associates, Inc.
Landplan Engineering, P.A.
Latimer, Sommers & Associates, P.A.
Level-4 Engineering, LLC
MACTEC Engineers & Consultants
Mixon/Hill, Inc.
MKEC Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Morrow Engineering, Inc.
Olsson Associates
Palmerton & Parrish, Inc.
Pars Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.
Payne & Brockway, P.A.
PEC PA
Poe & Associates of Kansas, Inc.
Ponzer-Youngquist, P.A.
Poole Consulting Services, Inc.
Reiss & Goodness Engineers
RTE Technologies, Inc.
Ruggles & Bohm, P.A.
Schwab-Eaton, P.A.
Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc.
Systems Management Consultants, Inc.
Taylor & Associates, Inc.
Terracon, Inc.
TranSystems Corporation
Tri-State Engineering, Inc.
URS Corporation, Inc.
Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc.
Wilbur Smith Associates
Wilson & Company

Consulting Kansas

Winter 2006

ACEC KANSAS SELECTS 2005 CITY AND COUNTY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

ACEC Kansas offers awards annually to cities and counties for the best public improvement projects of the year. The Public Improvement Awards (PIA) are awarded based on the benefit a project brings to the community, and are awarded in several different population categories. Competition is always intense. The City PIA awards are presented at the City/County Managers Conference, and the County PIA awards are presented at the Kansas Association of Counties conference.

This year, the following County PIA entries were selected as winners:

Anderson County for their *Welda Sewer District Project* (Under 10,000 Population); Engineer: Shafer, Kline & Warren

Seward County for their *Seward County Landfill Compost Expansion* (Over 10,000 Population); Engineer: Engineering Solutions & Design, Inc.

The following City PIA entries were selected as winners:

City of Caney for their *Water Treatment Plant* (under 5,000 population); Engineer: Larkin Group

City of Pittsburgh for their *23rd Street Overpass Project* (5,000 to 20,000 population); Engineer: Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A.

City of Garden City for their *US 50/83 Widening and Reconstruction Projects* (20,000 to 50,000 population); Engineer: City of Garden City Engineers

City of Wichita for their *West Kellogg Freeway Project* (50,000 and over population); Engineer: Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A.

Thanks to all those that entered. Please mark your calendars for 2006 and plan to participate by submitting the best projects Kansas cities and counties have to offer!

ACEC Kansas Proud to Welcome New Member Firms

ACEC Kansas is proud to announce that the following firms are now members of the association!

Cornerstone Engineering
Robert Graverholt
11936 W 119th St, Suite 209
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-397-0444

Geotechnology, Inc.
Casey Jones
9136 Cody
Overland Park, KS 66214
913-438-1900

Goedecke Engineering Co.
Martin Goedecke
205 S Main PO Box 629
El Dorado, KS 67042
316-320-3773

Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc.
Kenneth Conrad
920 Main Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105
816-701-2100

New Transportation Package Contains More Than Just Money

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users also contains provisions that industry officials say will alter transportation policy for the better, particularly in expediting projects, widening financing options and enhancing safety.

The new SAFETEA-LU bill was mostly about money—\$295 billion authorized, counting 1994 funding—and how states sliced up that enormous pie. But the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users also contains provisions that industry officials say will alter transportation policy for the better, particularly in expediting projects, widening financing options and enhancing safety.

SAFETEA-LU's predecessor, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, aimed to "streamline" projects' environmental reviews. But construction groups say that law did not achieve their desired goals. SAFETEA-LU goes further. It designates the Dept. of Transportation as lead federal agency for environmental reviews of road, transit or multimodal projects and lets DOT require agencies to do reviews concurrently, as much as possible. It permits DOT to set schedules for finishing reviews and requires suits challenging projects' permits to be filed in 180 days.

SAFETEA-LU "provides the teeth that the TEA-21 streamlining provisions were lacking," says American Road & Transportation Builders Association Senior Vice President David Bauer.

He says SAFETEA-LU also allows a 12-month "grace period" for localities to prove their transportation programs conform with Clean Air Act requirements "before the hammer of federal highway sanctions are imposed."

Mileage Rate Change

Effective January 1, the Internal Revenue Service has changed the deductible rate workers can claim to 44.5 cents per mile. The rate is

Industry likes the financing provisions. A new \$15-billion private activity bond program for highway and intermodal projects is "an interesting trial project, essentially," says Laurence Bory, HDR vice president for federal government relations. The measure also broadens the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act by cutting the minimum size of projects eligible for TIFIA loans and other non-grant aid to \$50 million, from \$100 million. The bill expands tolling options, including a pilot program for tolls on three new Interstate projects. Another pilot program lets states toll certain roads, bridges, tunnels and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

Moreover, as the bill's title suggests, lawmakers "did show a commitment to safety," says Gregory Cohen, president of the American Highway Users Alliance. Brian Deery, senior director of the Associated General Contractors' highway and transportation division, singles out work zone safety provisions. He says SAFETEA-LU allows funding to pay for concrete barriers and increased law enforcement in such zones. There also are federal grants for training to prevent work zone fatalities and injuries.

SAFETEA-LU, Deery notes, makes retrofitting off-road construction equipment with clean diesel engines eligible for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds, if equipment is used on projects in Clean Air Act "non-attainment" areas.

four cents per mile less than the previous 48.5 cents per mile rate. This rate decrease is in response to falling gas prices.

ACEC of Kansas Firm News

George Butler Associates, Inc. (GBA) has announced the following promotions: **Dan Abitz, P.E.**, and **Tim Ross, P.E.**, have been named **Senior Vice Presidents**; both are headquartered in Lenexa. According to GBA President and CEO Michael Smith, P.E., Abitz and Ross will continue to have principal-level involvement in their respective market groups while assuming a growing leadership role at the corporate level. Abitz and Ross currently head up GBA's firm-wide Initiative for Quality (IQ) program.

Abitz, a principal and member of GBA's Board of Directors, is responsible for the firm's specialized pharmaceutical and laboratory design, process engineering, and building systems commissioning services. Ross, who is also a principal and member of the Board of Directors, heads up GBA's Transportation Department, which includes the Bridge, Highways and Streets, and Traffic Engineering Groups. Ross also oversees the firm's Survey and Buildings Structural Groups.

HNTB Corporation is pleased to announce the addition of **Shawn B. Stover, P.E.**, to the

Overland Park office as a Project Manager responsible for providing leadership and expertise in our Municipal projects. With over 16 years experience working on major highway and street improvements, Shawn will be primarily responsible for managing projects for local communities and counties. He will be instrumental in fulfilling our "4for4" philosophy serving our clients with projects delivered on time, on budget, with quality work, and to our client's expectations.

Shawna Allison-Leslie has joined Lawrence-based **Landplan Engineering** as director of business development, responsible for leading strategic marketing tasks and identifying new project and client opportunities. She also will help with proposals and presentations, and will be based in the company's Kansas City, Mo., office.

Allison-Leslie has 20 years of design and construction marketing and business development experience. She had been employed by local architectural and construction management firms with national presences.

For ACEC of Kansas member firm information, please visit www.acecks.org.

ACEC Kansas Wins QBS Facilitator Grant

ACEC Kansas, in partnership with AIA Kansas and APWA Kansas, has been awarded a \$4,000 grant to promote the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) in Kansas!

The grant comes from a national program, started in 1989, sponsored by ACEC, AIA, and APWA at the national level. The state organizations are required to have their own money committed to the project, and can then apply for a grant equal to the amount of money they have budgeted at the state level, up to \$20,000. We had requested a \$4,000 grant to match the \$4,000 committed by the state organizations. (\$3,000 from ACEC Kansas, \$1,000 from AIA Kansas)

ACEC Kansas has been aggressively pushing

QBS throughout the state for years. The reality is that ACEC Kansas has everything it needs in the way of materials, expertise, and opportunity. There simply aren't enough personnel and time to take advantage of every opportunity to promote QBS. This grant will help offer a stipend to a volunteer who will assist in promoting the QBS message. This will be a person with a passionate belief in QBS, and the appropriate time to commit to the project.

Thanks to our partners at AIA Kansas and APWA Kansas for their help and support in this effort. We look forward to using this opportunity to continue to educate owners around the state on the advantages of QBS!



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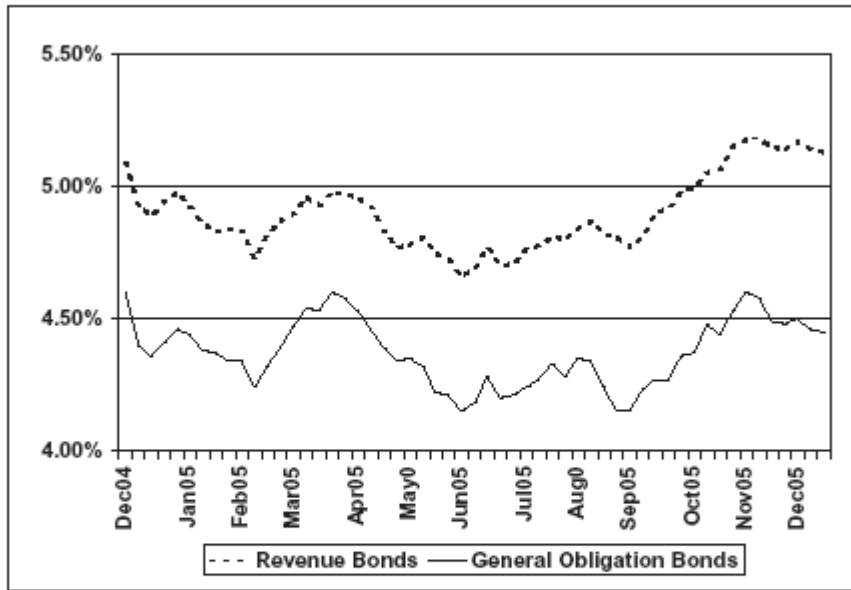
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12-Month Tax-Exempt Interest Rate Trends



The rates shown are weekly national averages of long-term, tax-exempt rates, adjusted to reflect the Kansas market. They represent selected trends of general obligation bonds and revenue bonds since December 2004. General obligation bonds and revenue bonds issued by Kansas municipalities, when properly structured and secured, can typically be sold at interest rates slightly lower than the national average.

This information was provided by George K. Baum & Company, Investment Bankers, Kansas City. For more information, contact the Public Finance Department of George K. Baum & Company at (800) 821-7195.