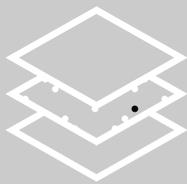


THE RIGHT ANGLE

Private Practice News from the Leading Edge

FEBRUARY 2023



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Our Mission

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC of Kansas) is the trade association representing private consulting engineering firms doing work in the State of Kansas. ACEC of Kansas serves the needs of those firms and is dedicated to the promotion and development of the highest standards of professional competence and ethics.

ACEC of Kansas

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



ACEC Kansas President
BRETT LETKOWSKI, P.E.
TranSystems Corporation
(316) 619-5240
baletkowski@transystems.com

Can you believe we are already one month in for 2023, as each year passes, they seem to go by faster and faster . I hear this from a lot of people I talk to, so I began to wonder if there was anything behind this feeling, any truth to it.

A little google research and I found several studies on this phenomenon. These studies hypothesize that how a clock measures time and how humans perceive it are quite different. The sense that time speeds up as we grow older is well documented by psychologist, but there is no single consensus on the cause. Some researchers have hypothesized that as we get older the rate at which we process visual information slows down, and this is what makes time “speed up”. They go on to theorize that the size and complexity of the network of neurons in our brain increases, causing electrical signals to travel greater distances. In addition, as we age, our nerves accumulate damage which increases the resistance to the flow of electrical signals further slowing how we process time. A final hypothesis is that as we age slower visual processing time results in us perceiving fewer “frames-per-second” and so more actual time passes between perception of each new image. This leads to time passing more rapidly.

When we are young, each second of actual time is packed with many more mental images which is why it seemed like an eternity between Christmases or birthdays. As we get older, those same events occur faster and faster.

So, what does this have to do with anything in our industry? There is, as theorized, so little time and so many opportunities!

As we start the new year there are several great ways for you to get engaged with seminars, conferences and podcasts sponsored by ACEC. Here are just a sample of events that we have scheduled for 2023:

Continued on Page 3

KDOT CORNER



AN UPDATE FROM SCOTT KING, P.E. INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING & DESIGN KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Looking ahead to spring, your friends at KDOT are excited to kick off another very full construction season. We recently released a batch of [construction inspection \(CE&I\) needs on a single RFP](#). Proposals associated with that are due February 8th. In future months, we are working to line up these requests with our new monthly solicitation schedules but keep an eye on that website to be informed as early as possible. See below for a message from Tony Menke, Interim Director of Project Delivery, about a construction inspection conversation that will occur this month.

I'd also like to draw your attention to a number of unique needs we plan to advertise this month:

- Renew the Master On-Call List
- Augment CE&I District On-Call List
- Another batch of Construction Inspection needs
(in addition to those mentioned above)
- FC-6001-22 Embedded Construction Inspectors for District 6
- EN-4603-24 Embedded ITS Engineer

Finally, the RFP calendar mentioned last month is now available for download from the Doing Business with KDOT website for consultants in the "Solicitations and RFPs" section. Feel free to import it to your own calendar to conveniently see some helpful reminders throughout the year.

Please address any RFP questions to LeAnn Oblander, and contract questions to Marcia Turner, both at [KDOT](#), DesignContracts@ks.gov.

CE&I SERVICES CONSULTANT MEETING WITH KDOT

Any company interested in performing CE&I services for KDOT is asked to attend a meeting with KDOT on Wednesday, February 22 (details below). We will discuss lessons learned from the last construction season and new items for the 2023 season. KDOT requests those companies send the manager of their construction inspection group and up to five more individuals if they choose.

**Wednesday, February 22 at 1pm
(following the Annual KCA/KDOT Partnering Conference)
Drury Plaza Hotel
400 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67202**

For more information contact Tony Menke, Interim Director of Project Delivery at 785-296-3069 or Tony.Menke@ks.gov.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED

- Water Quality Seminar hosted with KSPE has been scheduled for March 7, 2023 at Bartlett & West Office in Topeka
- ACEC Midwest States Conference has been scheduled for May 7 – 9, 2023 in Springfield, MO
- ACEC Annual Convention has been scheduled for June 11 – 14, 2023 in Washington, DC
- Professionals in Private Practice (PEPP) Meeting as part of the KSPE Annual Conference June 22, 2023 Olathe, KS
- KDOT/ACEC Partnering Conference has been scheduled for October 26, 2023 in Topeka, KS

Be sure to get these, and future event postings, on your calendar so time doesn’t get away from you and you miss out on some of the great things ACEC is doing.

Finally, every year at the beginning of the legislative session Scott schedules ACEC Podcasts with the newest leaders. This is an opportunity to hear from the legislative leadership and learn some personal things about them. Taking time to listen to these interviews provide a great way to help you get to know more about them, to find an opening to introduce yourself or strengthen your existing relationship with them. The ACEC Podcasts will be rolling out over the next several weeks so keep an out of for them.

SAVE THE DATE







ACEC Midwest States Conference

JUNE 7-9, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton
Springfield, MO

ACEC-KS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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ACEC of Kansas

STATE AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY TO USE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

AN UPDATE FROM MATT REIFFER AT ACEC NATIONAL

I wanted to reach out to alert you to a provision included in the year-end omnibus appropriations package that could open up additional infrastructure investment at the state and local level.

The omnibus included the text of the “State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act” (S. 3011 / H.R. 5735) sponsored by Senators Cornyn (R-TX) and Padilla (D-CA) to clarify and add additional flexibility for states and localities to use their American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds on infrastructure and economic development projects. This was legislation that ACEC and many other stakeholders had been actively supporting since it was first introduced in December 2021.

The law allows recipients of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to use up to \$10 million or 30% of those funds on highway, transit, and CDBG-eligible projects, as well as emergency relief from natural disasters. In addition to a wide array of surface transportation programs, it also allows ARPA funds to be used as part of the non-federal match on nationally significant freight and highway projects,

TIFIA loans, and transit capital investment grants. It does not mandate any spending and it does not reclaim or recapture any of those funds. ARPA Recovery Funds will still need to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by September 24, 2026.

The National Association of Counties has a very useful resource page with more detailed information and analysis.

It’s not entirely clear how much unused ARPA funding is out there, but many states and localities likely have unallocated funds that could be directed to additional infrastructure projects.

The Department of Treasury, which oversees implementation of the ARPA State and Local Recovery Funds, is directed to issue guidance on the new provisions within 60 days of enactment. We will circulate that guidance along with any additional information when it becomes available.

If you have any questions, Matt Reiffer invites ACEC Kansas members to contact him at (202) 682-4308.

ACEC-KS SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting ACEC-KS and the engineering industry!




Save the Date

**ACEC/KDOT
PARTNERING
CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 26
TOWNSITE TOWERS
TOPEKA**

ACEC-KANSAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACEC FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2023
Topeka, Kansas

ACEC MAY BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2023
Topeka, Kansas

ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING CONFERENCE

Oct 26, 2023
Townsite Towers, Topeka

ACEC FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

February 21-22, 2023
Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
Wichita, Kansas

ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE

March 8, 2023, 11am-2pm
Eisenhower State Office Building

ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE

Oct 27, 2023, 10am-Noon
Eisenhower State Office Building

2023 WATER QUALITY SEMINAR

March 7, 2023
Topeka, Kansas

ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE

May 24, 2023, 11am-2pm
WSP Conference Room, Wichita

ACEC MIDWEST CONFERENCE

June 7-9, 2023
DoubleTree by Hilton
Springfield, MO

ACEC MARCH BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2023
Topeka, Kansas

ACEC/KDOT PARTNERING COMMITTEE

July 26, 2023, 11am-2pm
GBA office, Lenexa

2023 Water Quality Seminar

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023
8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
BARTLETT & WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
1200 SW EXECUTIVE DR, TOPEKA, KS 66615

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Kansas

Kansas
Department of Health and Environment

THE ACEC BUSINESS INSURANCE TRUST'S NEW CYBER RISK PROGRAM

Now Offering a Complete Cyber Risk Insurance Solution

As our industry evolves and goes more virtual to achieve growth and engagement, the rate of Cyber Security attacks continues to increase. Terms such as spear phishing, ransomware and business email compromise (BEC) have now become part of our everyday risk management vernacular.

To address this growing risk, the ACEC Business Insurance Trust has partnered with Greyling Insurance Brokerage, a division of EPIC, and Coalition, a cyber risk management firm, to offer you what we view as a best in class solution.

Program Features

- Free Cyber Risk Assessment
- Customizable insurance
- Rapid quoting
- 24/7 Security monitoring
- Alerts of cyber incidents
- Security tools to minimize risk
- Access to security experts



Sample Risk Assessment (\$2,500 Value)

Get your free cyber risk assessment and quote.

Request your assessment



ACEC
Business Insurance Trust
Engineered for Peace of Mind

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