

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by *Jim Otradovec*

In this issue:

Executive Director's Message	1
December GMM Features Fellows Recognitions & Decarbonization Presentation	3
Veto Overrides Dominate Special Session	4
ACEC/MD Rolls Out 2022 Legislative Agenda	5
ACEC/MD Members to Descend on Capitol	11
ACEC/MD Call for Awards Nominations	12
New Members	13
Awards Program Sponsorship Opportunities	15
Member News	16
33rd Annual Conference Save The Date!	17
Upcoming Events	18



THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES!

As you are probably aware, after 33 years as the executive director of ACEC/MD, I will be closing my company and retiring at the end of 2021. As I approach the age of 65 you might think that would be an easy decision, but in reality, it was probably one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made.

Well, nothing makes me feel old like retiring, so I would rather say, with the passage of the Federal infrastructure bill, my work is done. In reality the credit goes to you! Through your dedication to make a difference, it really is possible to pass substantive legislation. While organizational representation is a huge reason to belong to ACEC/MD, elected officials need to hear from you, their constituents.

When I get reports from ACEC on the number of responses to alerts made nationally by our member firm representatives, ACEC/MD is almost always near the top. For a small state, ACEC/MD is second to none. Just look at the number of ACEC leaders that have come from ACEC/MD. From Andy Parker and Jim Thomas in the 90's and Terry Neimeyer in 2011, who served as presidents, to Cathy Ritter and Harvey Floyd, who served as vice presidents, to Art Barrett, who takes the helm of the organization next year, our past presidents have always made us proud.

Speaking of our past presidents, people often ask me if it is difficult to essentially have a new boss every year. While it is different, every president that I have served under for the past 33 years had one thing in common, they always had the best interest of ACEC/MD, the profession, and the citizens of Maryland in mind.

At the holiday party, Past Presidents Terry Neimeyer and Dan Cheng recapped our adventures in Puerto Rico at an ACEC conference, where I impressed them with the ability to sail a catamaran, with of course, a small cooler of beer on board, back to where we left. Well the work you do has always amazed me, so it was great to show a couple of golfers a new trick. And then there was the time during our conference in Cambridge, when I warned the coordinators of the party vessel to not believe

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the stereotype of engineers and under estimate the amount of beverages needed for our cruise. Well, you did not disappoint me, and when they ran out they did send out a launch to replenish the bar. I could go on, but I won't. The old adage "work hard, but play harder" certainly applies to this group! And there is an old Engineer's Week tagline entitled "Those Amazing Engineers". I could not agree more!

To think that when I started in 1988, computers were just becoming mainstream and cell phones, as we know them, were just on the horizon. Imagine life without emails – whether that is good or bad is certainly up for debate!

As some of you know, my dad was the first executive director of ACEC/MD, having served in this position for 12 years. When I came out of the University of Maryland in 1978 with a degree in biology, I actually interviewed with a member firm. Since back then our firms were not hiring biologists, especially MEP firms, I am sure that it was a favor to my dad. It sort of helps demonstrate how even though I was often the only non-engineer in the room, you have always made me feel welcome, just not as an employee of your firm!

Reflecting back on the many years of service to ACEC/MD and the many changes that have occurred, one thing that remains the same is the willingness of the dedicated professionals that participate in ACEC/MD to work for the better good of the industry and the state of Maryland.

We have accomplished a lot over the last 33 years including: initiating an annual conference; starting one of the first leadership programs in ACEC, which has graduated 360 young professionals and been a model for the nation; hosting an ACEC conference and providing a crash course to people from around the country on opening steamed crabs; exceeding the ACEC/PAC federal funding goal for the 17th straight year; raising overhead and salary caps; gaining passage of infrastructure funding; certificate of merit legislation; ethics reform; eliminating liquidated damages on MBE participation for on-call state A/E contracts; partial duty to defend protection; expanding partnering relationships with clients; and doubling membership in ACEC/MD. Of course it often feels like we have been putting our fingers in the dike to constantly defeat issues like anti-QBS initiatives, uninsurable contract language, and taxes on professional services that continue to show up around the state.

People often ask me what am I going to do during my retirement years and if I am apprehensive about retiring. Under the cloud of COVID that reduces the travel experience, first after removing the Teams from my computer, I will start trying to whittle down the well-aged list of items for my 100-year old bay front home, which has been in my family since 1965, and the 1950s vintage rental houses I own across the street from my residence. Trying to reduce the list on weekends never was successful. I might also sneak in some time to do some boating and then travel around looking for a larger power boat and maybe a sailboat. Longer term, I would like to travel to Alaska, which is the only state that I have not visited.

As for what concerns me, with all the people leaving the workforce, I am afraid that there won't be enough seats during happy hour at my favorite waterfront bars. Actually, I am going to miss interacting with all the interesting people that I come in contact with in this position.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

As I embark on retirement and the next chapter of my life, I would like to start by expressing my appreciation for all the support I have received from the past presidents and Fellows, who have provided a solid foundation for this organization, and executive committee members, committee chairs and all the member firm representatives that are the heart and soul of this organization. While balancing the diverse interests of the 90 plus firms that make up ACEC/MD, which are often competitors, I could always count on the membership to roll up their sleeves and come together for the better good of the industry.

In closing, I am extremely excited about the future direction of ACEC/MD. With the innovative, diverse leaders in ACEC/MD that continue to move ACEC/MD forward during these challenging times, and the hiring of former ACEC/FL COO Chad Faison, a seasoned association management professional who knows ACEC, ACEC/MD will continue to be the best member organization in ACEC!

Thank you for the opportunity to be your executive director, and for all that you do for society!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and continued success in all your future endeavors!

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*DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
FEATURES RECOGNITION OF NEWEST FELLOWS &  
DECARBONIZATION PRESENTATION*

Tony Frascarella (Century)



At the December General Membership Meeting, ACEC/MD was pleased to honor Past President Tony Frascarella (Century Engineering) and former MDOT Secretary and RK&K Principal Bill Hellmann as the newest Fellows, and retiring long-time Executive Director Jim Otradovec, who was recognized as an Honorary ACEC/MD Fellow. This honor recognizes individuals that have notably contributed to the advancement of consulting engineering in administrative leadership, design, science, by literature, in education or by service to the profession.

Bill Hellmann (RK&K)



In addition to recognizing Tony, Bill and Jim for their impressive accomplishments, ACEC/MD was pleased to welcome Mark Lessans, Director of Regulatory & Environmental Affairs at Johnson Controls. Mr. Lessans discussed the overall trend of building electrification, which will have a dramatic effect on decarbonization. Moving away from fuel driven furnaces to heat pumps will be a major aspect of decarbonization. This electrification will target space heating, water heating and cooking. The ability to shift to heat pumps in colder climates will be key to reducing the impact of heating buildings. The

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## *DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CONTINUED)*

target is to optimize heating with heat pumps down to 5°F. Dual fuel systems will also be important to decarbonization.

Mr. Lessans also addressed the concept of beneficial electrification, which involves saving money over the long term, better grid management and reducing environmental impact. He noted that each choice cannot have a negative impact on one of the others. He also discussed policy driven electrification that is occurring in California, New York and New England. As examples, he cited how the use of natural gas has been disincentived in some California towns, which no longer allow gas pipes to be extended to buildings, and in Rochester, NY, where a rate hike was granted only due to an agreement to reduce gas hookups.

In summary, Mr. Lessans commented that future buildings will feature:

- Grid interactive efficiency
- Connectivity
- Smart attributes
- Flexibility

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VETO OVERRIDES DOMINATE SPECIAL SESSION

As you are probably aware, at the just concluded General Assembly Special Session, redistricting and consideration of the Governor's vetoes from the previous session took center stage. As expected, redistricting broke along party lines, with only Delegate Gabriel Acevero (D-Montgomery County) breaking party ranks. Also, as expected, overriding a number of Governor Hogan's vetoes was a priority. For your information, the following vetoes were overridden:

(SB 9) - State Employees - Collective Bargaining - Applicability, Bargaining Processes, and Memorandums of Understanding: In collective bargaining, requires the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) to act on behalf of USM and its constituent institutions.

(HB 133/SB 30) - State Finance and Procurement - Appropriation Reductions (Board of Public Works Budget Reduction Clarification Act): Limits the Governor's authority to reduce specified appropriations for projects of \$10 million or more.

(HB 1091/SB 829) - State Procurement - Emergency and Expedited Procurements - Revisions and Reporting: Alters the requirements for emergency procurements to ensure MBE guidelines are being met.

(HB 933) - Anne Arundel County – Transfer Tax – Housing Trust Special Revenue Fund: Authorizes Anne Arundel County to increase the county transfer tax rate on properties valued at \$1 million or more.

(HB 894/SB 746) - Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining: Establishes a collective bargaining process for local community college employees.

(HB 114/SB 199) - Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration Funding and MARC Rail Extension Study (Transit Safety and Investment Act): Requires increased operating spending, capital spending, and funding levels for the MTA.

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VETO OVERRIDES DOMINATE SPECIAL SESSION (CONTINUED)

(HB 278) - Economic Development - Job Creation Tax Credit - Qualified Position and Revitalization Area: Alters the definition of "qualified position" for eligibility under the Job Creation Tax Credit Program.

(HB 319/SB 133) - Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2021: Authorizes local governments to impose the county income tax on a bracket basis and requires all local governments to impose a minimum tax rate of 2.25%.

(HB 719) - Commercial Tenants - Personal Liability Clauses – Enforceability: Creates exceptions from personal liability clauses for businesses forced to cease operations due to pandemic-related gubernatorial orders.

(HB 836/SB 741) - COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021: Requires the Maryland Department of Health to adopt and implement a two-year plan to respond to COVID-19 that addresses the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on underserved and minority communities.

(SB 202) - Correctional Services - Parole - Life Imprisonment: Increases the minimum time an inmate must serve before the opportunity of parole from 15 to 20 years. Removes the Governor from the process.

Legislative Action - Not Considered for Veto Override

(HB 372/SB 420) - Criminal Law – Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Decriminalization: Changes statutory provisions related to "controlled paraphernalia" and alters penalties for offenses involving controlled and drug paraphernalia.

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## *ACEC/MD ROLLS OUT 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA*

ACEC/MD officially kicked off the 2022 political season on November 18th at the organization's annual Legislative Breakfast. At this event, we were pleased to welcome featured speaker Mary D. Kane, President & CEO, Maryland Chamber of Commerce. Legislative Chair Dennis Simpson (AECOM) rolled out the ACEC/MD Legislative Business Agenda for the General Assembly Session, that convenes on January 12th, and CEPAC Chair Mike Blair (Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson) encouraged firms and individuals to step up to the plate as we enter an election year. This year's agenda features modified Duty to Defend legislation that ties the duty to a court determined proximate cause of damages; targeted actions to address the dire straits of the Transportation Trust Fund; and educational information on the importance of using Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) when federal or state funds are used for design projects.

During her remarks, Ms. Kane commented that it is frustrating that Maryland is set up to be the perfect business state with features such as a highly educated workforce and close proximity to the nation's capital, but the reality is that the state's support for businesses pales in comparison with Virginia. She encouraged attendees to get involved by increasing political activism and spreading the word that we must do better or we will continue to see jobs flow out of state, as was recently evidenced with the location of a major Amazon facility in Virginia.

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# ACEC/MD 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA





AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES-MARYLAND

2022

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### WHO ARE WE?

An organization of 90 engineering and professional service firms in the State of Maryland

### CONTACT INFORMATION

8254 Bayside Drive  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
www.acecmd.org  
P. 410.539.1592  
acecmd@aol.com

### WHO DO WE REPRESENT?

Over 7,000 employees including:

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Engineers      | Scientists            |
| Architects     | Technical Specialists |
| Land Surveyors | Planners              |

|                                             |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>D. Sean McCone, PE, CCM | <b>Chair, CEPAC</b><br>Michael Blak, PE |
| <b>Chair, Legislative Committee</b>         | Dennis Simpson                          |
| <b>Executive Director</b>                   | Jim Otradovec                           |



## Duty to Defend – Equity and Fairness

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

As a matter of public policy, Maryland law currently voids some forms of broad-based indemnification clauses in contracts relating to construction projects. Many contracts still require A/E firms and design professionals to indemnify and to assume a duty to defend various other parties with respect to claims caused by others but which the design professional has no legal liability.

Modification to Maryland statutory language is needed to ensure that A/E firms and design professionals are not required to pay for or assume upfront duty to defend claims caused by others, through no fault of the design professional, so that such risks are fairly borne by the responsible parties.

### WHY ARE THESE CHANGES IMPORTANT?

Professional Liability insurance does not provide coverage for legal fees and costs incurred to defend other parties when there's no established negligence or legal liability of the insured design professional. (In other words, it is uninsurable).

- Small businesses including women and minority owned businesses could be bankrupted by the current requirement.
- A design professional's responsibility for claims arising from A/E services should be consistent with established legal principles for professional liability.
- Other states have recognized that limiting such risks in the professional services context is good public policy.

*The modifications proposed in no way prevent an owner from recovering damages caused by the fault or negligence of a design professional.*

### Legislative Action Required

Amend Section 5-401 of the Courts and Judicial Proceeding Article, Annotated Code of MD to void an upfront duty to defend and make indemnification unenforceable unless the design professional is the proximate cause of the injury/ loss/damage. This would fairly assign liability to the responsible party.

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# ACEC/MD 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA

**ACEC/MD**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES MARYLAND

**2022**

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

**WHO ARE WE?**  
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|                                                       |                                             |
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| <b>President</b><br>D. Sean McCone, PE, CCM           | <b>Chair, CEPAC</b><br>Michael Blair, PE    |
| <b>Chair, Legislative Committee</b><br>Dennis Simpson | <b>Executive Director</b><br>Jim Citradovec |

**WHO DO WE REPRESENT?**  
Over 7,000 employees including:

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Engineers      | Scientists            |
| Architects     | Technical Specialists |
| Land Surveyors | Planners              |

## QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION (QBS)

Both federal and Maryland state procurements use a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) method to procure professional design services for their projects.

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

In the interest of public safety, both the federal and state government long ago mandated Qualifications Based Selection as the method to select architects and engineers. Federal and state funds are used by many local jurisdictions for infrastructure projects. Some of these jurisdictions are using a low bid system to select design services related to these initiatives.

### Action Required

Encourage all local jurisdictions in Maryland to use the QBS process to select professional design firms when federal or State funds are used to pay for the services.

### WHY ARE THESE CHANGES IMPORTANT?

- Qualifications Based Selection leads to higher quality services on public infrastructure projects. Quality professional engineering services are in the best interests of public safety.
- QBS ensures that the most qualified team is selected for the work.
- It provides for consideration of all teams based on past performance.
- Selecting the most qualified firm likely results in better design and construction savings.

### WHY A LEGISLATIVE INTEREST?

- Important issue among Architectural/Engineering Firms.
- State legislators can encourage local jurisdictions to advertise through a QBS process.

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## *ACEC/MD 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA*

### *ACEC/MD SUPPORTS TTF POSITION*



Maryland's transportation system serves as the foundation of our entire economy. Moving people and vital goods and services is the indispensable responsibility of our transportation system, including our roads, bridges, highways, and transit facilities.

Congestion in Maryland is choking the transportation system, stifling commerce and negatively impacting our quality of life. Statistics show Baltimore ranked ninth for the most congested places in the nation in 2019, jumping two slots from 11<sup>th</sup> in 2018. The Greater Washington Metropolitan area combined is consistently in the Top-10 (often Top-5) of worst congestion in the nation based on these metrics.

The Transportation Trust Fund was established as a dedicated fund to support transportation needs in Maryland. Sources of revenue come from motor fuel taxes, vehicle titling taxes, registration and MVA fees, corporate income tax, operating revenues, sales and use tax on short-term vehicle rentals, bond proceeds, and Federal aid. The Fund supports operation and maintenance of State transportation systems, administration, debt service, and capital projects, as well as Maryland's portion of operating and capital subsidies for WMATA. A portion also goes to local transportation needs as capital grants.

Unfortunately, the Transportation Trust Fund does not have enough resources available to adequately maintain and expand our existing transportation system. We have reviewed many options for increasing transportation funding in Maryland and have come up with four proposals.

#### **Proposal One – Transportation Commission Study**

The first proposal is to ask the Governor to create a commission that will study transportation funding in Maryland. This commission would review and recommend possible revenue streams.

We can look to the past – the Blue Ribbon Commission was tasked in 2011 to make transportation recommendations under Governor O'Malley. They recommended \$870 million in new transportation investment, including a 15 cent increase in the gas tax, increased vehicle registration fees, and transit fare hikes.

We can also look to Pennsylvania, who recently created the Transportation Revenue Options Commission to find alternatives to the gasoline tax. Just last week, the Commission unveiled its proposed changes, which recommends phasing out the gas tax and replacing it over a five-year period with a variety of other fees and taxes. They estimate these changes will generate \$3.5 billion in the first phase, \$6.6 billion in the second phase, and \$11.5 billion in the third phase. The sources of revenue include the following:

- Establishing a miles-driven fee for every vehicle;
- Establishing a fee for every package delivered by companies like Amazon, FedEx, UPS, and local grocery stores and restaurants;
- Charging a per trip fee on ride sharing companies like Uber and Lyft;
- Increasing the car rental tax;

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## *ACEC/MD 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA*

### *ACEC/MD SUPPORTS TTF POSITION (CONTINUED)*

- Establishing fees for electric vehicles; and
- Increasing vehicle registration fees.

#### **Proposal Two – Gas Tax**

The second proposal looks at two options regarding the gasoline tax – setting a floor on the gas tax and increasing the gas tax. The lack of a floor on gas prices contributes to a major structural problem in the funding formula, only to be exacerbated by the pandemic. This approach will ensure that even if the price of gas plummets, the tax will stay consistent whereby guaranteeing a certain amount in transportation funding each year.

We understand that passing a tax on gasoline during an election year presents challenges, but this option is an important one to revisit. By way of review, in 2013 the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1515, which created an amendment to the existing "Gas Tax" with the intention of investing in and protecting Maryland's transportation infrastructure.

Unfortunately, this funding formula does not work in its present day form. There has been significant growth in electric vehicles and more fuel-efficient vehicles, leading to a devastating long-term steady decline in gasoline sales since 2005. Over the same period, highway and heavy construction costs have risen by approximately 50%. Additionally, the pandemic has caused a new shocking short-term decline in gasoline sales since April 2020.

We need to increase or restructure the gas tax to produce a consistent, sustainable flow of revenue that is sufficient to fund the engineering, construction, and maintenance of the State's roads, bridges, and highways.

#### **Proposal Three – Fees for Electric Vehicles**

Currently, Maryland does not place any type of fee or tax on electric and hybrid vehicles. There are almost 18,000 electric vehicles registered in Maryland. Surrounding states that do have a fee are Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. We are recommending a similar approach to Pennsylvania who charges \$250 annually for commercial electric vehicles, \$175 annually for electric vehicles, and \$75 annually for hybrid vehicles.

#### **Proposal Four – Regional Transportation Authorities**

We recommend establishing regionally based funding authorities in the Baltimore area and the Washington Metro area to produce enough revenue to fund and support mass transportation projects and efforts in those regions. The Baltimore Region would incorporate Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, and Anne Arundel County. The Metro DC Region would cover Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Frederick County, and Charles County.

We can look to the models used in Virginia to determine the best types of revenue streams. They have three regional transportation authorities created over the last 20 years – the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission. Their primary functions are to develop and update regional transportation plans and conduct project planning, prioritization, and funding of transportation projects for counties and cities within each region. Some of the revenue streams include additional regional sales and use taxes, wholesale gas taxes, transient occupancy taxes, and fees on fuel efficient, alternative fuel, and electric vehicles.

## *ACEC/MD 2022 LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AGENDA*

### *ACEC/MD SUPPORTS TTF PROPOSED COMMISSION*



### **Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation**

**Objective:**

Create a commission that will study transportation funding in Maryland that will review and recommend possible new revenue streams for transportation projects.

**Vehicle:** Senate President Ferguson and Speaker Jones will establish the Commission.

- Details of the Transportation Commission
  - Purpose- develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for addressing transportation funding needs in Maryland
  - Responsibilities:
    - Study and prepare a comprehensive list of potential revenue sources available for current and future transportation needs
    - Prepare a comprehensive funding plan
    - Provide reports to the General Assembly
  - Composition (20 members):
    - 2 members of the Senate
    - 2 members of the House of Delegates
    - Secretary of Transportation or their representative
    - Secretary of Budget and Management or their representative
    - Secretary of Commerce or their representative
    - Secretary of Planning or their representative
    - 1 rep from WMATA
    - 1 rep from MTA
    - 1 rep from labor unions
    - 1 rep from environmental community, with a background in smart growth/sustainability
    - 1 rep from the American Automobile Association (AAA)
    - 1 rep from motor carrier industry
    - 2 reps from transportation industry construction/engineering
    - 2 reps from Maryland Association of Counties
    - 2 reps from Maryland Municipal League
  - Term of Commission
    - Commission will commence May 1, 2022 and terminate December 31, 2022.
    - Commission will provide an interim report August 1, 2022, and a final report November 1, 2022 to the General Assembly.

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## *ACEC/MD MEMBERS TO DESCEND ON CAPITOL JANUARY 18TH*

Be sure to mark your calendar for January 18, 2022, and plan to join your colleagues at ACEC/MD's Legislative Action Day in Annapolis. While COVID restrictions have been announced in the House requiring appointments and limits on the number of people in legislators' offices, the day will still commence with targeted visitations in the morning followed by the annual CEPAC luncheon. To ensure that our elected officials hear from their constituents, we really need everyone's participation. Please note that this year it is extremely important that participants provide their legislative district as soon as possible.



### **Legislative Action Day Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

Visitations 8:30 - 11:30 AM (pending House & Senate rules in place)

Luncheon 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle, Annapolis

(You can avoid the parking hassle by parking at the stadium lot on Rowe Blvd. and taking the shuttle into Annapolis.)

As we head into an election year and with the dramatic turnover in the leadership of the General Assembly, the upcoming session shapes up to be another challenging one. This is the perfect opportunity to educate your elected officials on important issues that impact your firm, such as:

- Tying the Duty to Defend requirement to the party that is the "proximate" cause of the claimed loss or damage.
- The importance of sustainable infrastructure funding and addressing the dire straits of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).
- The importance of local jurisdictions using the QBS process when federal or state dollars are used to pay for services.

The cost is \$75.00 per person. Register online at [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org).

**IMPORTANT:** With each registration, PLEASE include the registrant's legislative district and the legislative district for the firm, and if you plan to participate in the visitations with legislators. Contact the ACEC/MD office for registration information, or go to [www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org) to register with a credit card.

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ACEC/MD Legislative Action Day schedule:

8:30-11:30AM – Targeted Legislative Visitations

11:30AM-1:30PM – Annual CEPAC Luncheon, Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle

1:30-3:00PM – Executive Committee Meeting

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## *ACEC/MD CALL FOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS - DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5TH*

ACEC/MD is pleased to announce that nominees are being sought for the  
2022 Community Service Award  
2022 Young Professional of the Year Award  
2022 Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm & from a Mid-Large Firm

As indicated by recent ACEC award winners Kunal Gangopadhyay (EBA) and Chuck Phillips (KCI) for Community Service and Stephanie Kunkel (JMT) as Young Professional of the Year, many of our firms' employees are being recognized both locally and nationally for doing exciting and important work for both their companies and in the community.

Look around your firm and be sure to get the recognition that is richly deserved for these individuals. Please circulate to your team members as you feel appropriate.

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2022 ACEC/MD Community Service Award Nominees Wanted

ACEC/MD is once again looking for employees of member firms that have made significant contributions to their communities by volunteering their time and expertise. These individuals have enhanced the quality of life for all of us, and we would like to recognize their efforts. Please note that only the official ACEC/MD representative of a member firm may submit candidates. However, a representative from one member firm may nominate a representative from another member firm. The deadline for entries in the ACEC/MD competition is January 5, 2022. The entry must include the ACEC/MD Nomination Certification and ACEC Nomination Form, which can be found on the ACEC/MD website – www.acecmd.org. To be eligible for the competition, you must send your entry electronically by January 5, 2022. The winner in the ACEC/MD competition will be forwarded to ACEC for consideration in their competition later in the year.

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### **2022 ACEC/MD Young Professional of the Year Award Competition**

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland is once again soliciting candidates for the 2022 ACEC Young Professional of the Year Award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of our young engineers by highlighting their interesting and unique work, and the resulting impact on society. To be eligible to participate in the national competition, your nominee must enter the ACEC/MD competition. The 2022 ACEC/MD award will be honored at ACEC/MD's Awards Banquet February 17, 2022. The 2022 ACEC Young Professional of the Year award information is posted on ACEC/MD's website ([www.acecmd.org](http://www.acecmd.org)) as well as ACEC's website. You can download the application from ACEC's website ([www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org)).

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2022 ACEC/MD Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm and from a Mid-Large Firm

After being launched last year, ACEC/MD is excited to once again present awards recognizing the important contributions by engineers from both a small firm and a mid-large size firm. Recognizing engineering achievements and community service, these awards are designed to spotlight the well-rounded attributes of our member firms' team members.

Criteria for Engineer of the Year Awards (must meet all criteria for each award):

Small Firm

- a. The nominees shall be employees of ACEC/MD Member Firms and not a branch office.
- b. The architectural and engineering operations of the business did not employ more than 100 persons
- c. The nominees shall be a registered Professional Engineer.

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CALL FOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

2022 ACEC/MD Engineer of the Year Award from a Small Firm and from a Mid-Large Firm (continued)

Criteria for Engineer of the Year Awards (must meet all criteria for each award):

Mid-Large Firm

- a. The nominees shall be employees of ACEC/MD Member Firms.
- b. The nominees shall be an engineer from a Mid to Large firm
 - The firm must qualify as a prime for projects submitted
- c. The nominees shall be a registered Professional Engineer.

As a reminder, please note that a 100-person firm is the delineation point separating the two Engineer of the Year awards. You must send your entry electronically by Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Additional information can be found on the ACEC/MD website – www.acecmd.org.

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**IMPORTANT:**

All award nominations must be submitted electronically no later than January 5, 2022. Contact the ACEC/MD office if you have any questions.

All nominations must be submitted electronically directly to the following link: <https://gfnet.sharefile.com/share/upload/rd133084d34294ac1bb7a52ac4d558c6d>

While we encourage the use of the upload link above, we will accept submittals that are emailed to the ACEC/MD Awards and Recommendations Committee Chair Tiffany Harrison at [tharrison@gfnet.com](mailto:tharrison@gfnet.com) by January 5, 2022.

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NEW MEMBERS

The following firms have been elected to membership in ACEC/MD:

ARCADIS

7550 Teague Road, Suite 210, Hanover, MD 21076

Telephone: 410-987-0032

Rep.: Hosam Emara, PE #44845 (hosam.emara@arcadis.com)

Size of Firm: 6

Website: www.arcadis.com

Firm Founded: 1888

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: Arcadis is a leading global design and consultancy for natural and built assets. Applying their deep market sector insights and collective design, consultancy, engineering, project and management services, the firm’s team works in partnership with their clients to deliver exceptional and sustainable outcomes throughout the lifecycle of their natural and built assets. They support UN-Habitat with knowledge and expertise to improve the quality of life in rapidly growing cities around the world. The firm has expertise in architecture, asset management, business advisory, cost and commercial management, design and engineering, digital environmental health safety and sustainability, environmental restoration, program management, industrial manufacturing, technology, property and investment, contracting, and energy and resources.

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NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

BENGAL ENGINEERS, LLC.

6291 Leafy Screen, Columbia, MD 21045

Telephone: 443-320-3044

Rep.: Subra Das, PE #0039215 (sdas@bengalengineers.com)

Size of Firm: 1

Website: www.bengalengineers.com

Firm Founded: 2020

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: Bengal Engineers was founded in 2020 by Subra Das. Bengal Engineers LLC, a MDOT certified Minority Business Enterprise offers comprehensive professional civil engineering services inclusive of Civil/Site, Utility, Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, Plan Reviews, Permitting, and Inspection Compliance for both public and private clients. The firm's specialty involves planning, designing, and permitting for environmental, water resources, utility, and site/civil engineering projects.

CITYSCAPE ENGINEERING, LLC.

3000 Chestnut Avenue, Suite 112, Baltimore, MD 21211

Telephone: 410-601-3290, x1

Rep.: Kelly Lindow, PE #40805 (kelly@baltimorecityscape.com)

Size of Firm: 5

Website: www.baltimorecityscape.com

Firm Founded: 2014

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: CityScape was founded in 2014 by Kelly Lindow as a Baltimore City Based WBE firm with the goal of providing affordable and reliable civil engineering services to local community groups and non-profit organizations seeking to implement small-scale green infrastructure projects. Over the last seven years they have grown to employ five full-time professional engineers and provide WBE subconsultant on-call design services for numerous City government contracts. Previously, Ms. Lindow worked for three years as a project engineer, and four years prior as a stormwater engineer for the Center for Watershed Protection. CityScape Engineering provides civil engineering services pertaining to the water resources engineering field. They provide design, permitting, and construction oversight services for local government, non-profit, and community groups looking to implement green and equitable redevelopment solutions in ultra-urban areas. Engineering activities include the design of site grading, stormwater management systems, green infrastructure, erosion and sediment control, site drainage, and site wet utilities.

TRUE INSPECTION SERVICES, LLC.

539 Rock Spring Road, Suite 202, Bel Air, MD 21014

Telephone: 240-673-6330

Rep.: Larry Hughes, CCM (larry.hughes@tisllc.com)

Size of Firm: 3

Website: www.tisllc.com

Firm Founded: 2007

Brief History and Activities provided by the Firm: True Inspection Services, LLC (TIS) is a DBE, MBE and SBE certified construction management and engineering firm headquartered in Urbana, Ohio. The firm specializes in design support services, engineering support services, and construction management services for new bridge construction, bridge and structural rehabilitation, and coatings inspection. Its project experience includes inspection of asphalt and concrete roadways, bridge rehabilitation, airport runway inspection and coating inspection services. The firm combines diverse talent with traditional experience to deliver an effective and

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NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

TRUE INSPECTION SERVICES, LLC. (continued)

successful team of engineers, construction managers and inspectors clients can depend on. The firm's field of operation includes Civil, Construction and Rehabilitation of Bridges, Highways, Airports and Transit Systems; Construction of Vertical Structures; Utilities Inspection; and Coatings Inspection.

We welcome these firms as members of ACEC/MD. Be sure to add their information to your records. The next time you see one of their representatives, please take the time to let them know we're glad that they have joined the Council!

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## *ACEC/MD OFFERING AWARDS PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES*

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) is pleased to offer interested firms the opportunity to co-sponsor the 2022 ACEC/MD Awards Banquet. This annual event recognizes all finalists in our Engineering Excellence Awards Program, along with the recipients of the Young Professional of the Year Award, Community Service Award, Engineer of the Year and the ACEC/MD and Kahl Scholarships. This banquet will be held at the historic Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, 11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, on Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

Member firms, suppliers to the industry, and other interested parties are invited to participate in this celebration by co-sponsoring the event. Included in this sponsorship are:

- *Recognition on a sign board posted at the event.*
- *Acknowledgement in the March-April, 2022 ACEC/MD Newsletter.*
- *Color advertisement in the February 17, 2022 event program.*

The investment for sponsoring this event is only:

Platinum - inside front or back cover (portrait-6½" high x 4½" wide)\* - \$1,000.00

Gold - full page vertical ad (portrait-6½" high x 4½" wide)\* - \$500.00

Silver - ½ page horizontal ad (horizontal-3½" high x 4½" wide)\* - \$250.00

Bronze Business card ad\* - (horizontal-2" high x 3½" wide)\* - \$100.00

(Please note: Platinum and Gold ads must be portrait; Silver and Bronze ads must be landscape.)

\* Ad must adhere to the layout and size requirements; otherwise ACEC/MD is not responsible for the appearance.

To take advantage of this opportunity, email logo and ad (MUST BE .jpg-200dpi minimum or .eps format; color or black & white) to [acecmd@aol.com](mailto:acecmd@aol.com), and mail a check for the level of sponsorship desired to the ACEC/MD office, by the close of business on **January 23, 2022**. (If your firm is scheduled to release a new logo that you would like to have included, please advise the logo release date.) For further information, please contact the ACEC/MD office at 410-539-1592.

We hope that you will join us in this celebration of "Excellence in Engineering," and at the same time take advantage of this chance to promote your company's name.

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MEMBER NEWS

CENTURY ENGINEERING is excited to announce that the firm has been acquired by The Kleinfelder Group, Inc., a multinational firm specializing in engineering, design, construction management, construction materials inspection and testing, and environmental professional services.

EBA ENGINEERING, INC. recently announced that **Ted Nadobny** recently joined the firm as a senior project manager for water systems. He has over 30 years of civil engineering and geospatial technology experience.

KCI TECHNOLOGIES, INC. is pleased to announce the following:

- The firm recently acquired Florida-based Bridging Solutions, a highly specialized bridge and structural engineering firm in the transportation and land development markets
- Beth Ostrowski, PE, PTOE** has been promoted to transportation regional practice leader in the firm's Nashville, TN office.

MUELLER ASSOCIATES recently announced the following:

- Todd Garing, PE, LEED AP BD+C** has been named president effective January 1, 2022. He joined the firm in 1993 and has served as vice president and group manager since 2007
- Adam Fry, PE**, has joined the firm's executive team and will serve as vice president and group manager
- Pathros Cardenas, PE**, has been promoted to chief electrical engineer.

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American Council of Engineering  
Companies/Maryland

## 33rd Annual Conference

June 22-24, 2022\*



# NOELLE

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[www.noelle-nashville.com](http://www.noelle-nashville.com)

With Printers Alley at her back and the glow of Broadway a block away, our conference hotel has long been at the center of the hustle and bustle that fuels the eclectic city of Nashville, TN. A Marriott property, this one-of-a-kind hotel is designed specifically to bring guests face-to-face with the warmth, talent and delightful unpredictability that make Nashville unique. Built in 1930, Noelle came of age at a time when downtown Nashville was experiencing a boom of new hotels, department stores and local characters aplenty. Now in its second act, the famed Noelle hotel has risen once again to take on its role in Nashville's rich narrative. Here is a link to make your reservation:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1629205187566&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you have questions or need help, copy & paste the link into your browser. Or call 1-888-874-2883 by May 18, 2022 for room reservations. ACEC/MD's attractive room rates start at \$259.00/night plus all applicable taxes & fees, single/double occupancy. Reference the ACEC/MD Annual Conference.

\*Please note that in addition to the room block for the conference (6/22-6/24), by popular demand, a limited number of Saturday night (6/25) rooms have been secured that ACEC/MD is financially committed to use. Even if you previously committed to stay over Saturday night, you must make the room reservation. Once the rooms are gone, if you are fortunate to get a room, you will be subject to paying the going rate, which could be substantially higher.

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Executive Director
Jim Otradovec

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Note: All dates, times, and locations are tentative and subject to change.

Legislative Action Day & Legislative Luncheon

January 18, 2022

Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle, Annapolis

8:30-11:30AM – Targeted Legislative Visitations

11:30AM-1:30PM – Annual CEPAC Luncheon, Governor Calvert House

1:30-3:00PM – Executive Committee Meeting

ACEC/MD Awards Banquet & General Membership Meeting

February 17, 2022

Garrett Jacobs Mansion

11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore

Watch for complete details!

For more information on these, and other events, please contact the ACEC/MD office at 410-539-1592, acecmd@acecmd.org, or go to www.acecmd.org. Mark your calendar and to plan to participate!

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contact:
Jim Otradovec
Executive Director
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ENGINEERING COMPANIES/
MARYLAND
8254 Bayside Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122
Tel. 410-539-1592

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