

THE FIRST WORD

February, 2012

Zahl-Ford Wins 2011 ACEC OKLAHOMA Engineering Excellence Top Honor

Zahl-Ford's "OU Children's Physicians Facility Atrium" project took home top honors as ACEC OKLAHOMA's 2011 Engineering Excellence "Grand Conceptor" at the Engineering Excellence Awards dinner on January 26th.

As the new entrance into The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center and the OU Children's Physicians Medical Office Building in Oklahoma City, the OU Children's Physicians Facility Atrium creates a light-filled space which greets visitors with visions of soaring butterflies, skipping kids, and bubbling water features.

Located near downtown Oklahoma City and part of a multi-phased project that included a new parking garage, new 14-story medical office building and an Educational Center currently under construction, the new Atrium is being touted as Oklahoma's newest Landmark and a New Gateway to Children's Health in Oklahoma.

The 65,000 sq. ft atrium, with 2 levels below the main floor, features an undulating kite-ribbon inspired roof with offsetting undulations between the interior and exterior bays. Designed to mimic trees, steel pipe columns branch out from the tops of monumental concrete columns to support the unique roof structure. The curvilinear theme is continued throughout the building in the floors plans, stairs, furniture, and fixtures.

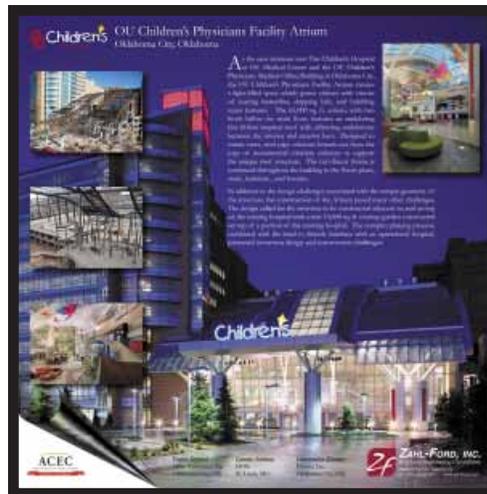
The design called for the structure to be constructed adjacent to, and on top of, the existing hospital with a new 10,000 sq. ft. rooftop garden constructed on top of a portion of the existing hospital that was not designed to accommodate additional loading. Thus, in addition to the design of the new atrium structural elements, both the vertical load carrying

elements and the lateral load resisting elements of portions of the hospital had to be strengthened as well.

The Atrium, plus the 10,000 sq ft roof garden, features a roof rising from 3-stories above the main entry to nearly 7-stories at the back of the atrium. The roof consists of three rolling bays, two of which follow the same undulation pattern, with the middle bay following a pattern which is "out of phase"

from the outside bays. The two outside bays are solid, but a large portion of the middle bay is clad with an architectural skylight system, and this bay extends another 70 feet to provide a canopy for the automobile dropoff at the entrance.

Dr. M. Dewayne Andrews, executive dean of the OU College of Medicine said, "This Atrium is breathtaking in both form and function. It creates a welcoming environment where children faced with sometimes life-threatening illness can still be children, while receiving the advance care they need."



Mike Samis, Chairman of the University Hospital Authority and Trust added, "We have been able to create a very special space — a new front door welcoming young patients and their families to their doctors' offices and to Oklahoma's Children's Hospital."

A total of nine projects were entered in the 2011 competition. Garver took home four "Honor" awards, while Crafton-Tull earn two "Finalist" along with one "Finalist" award each going to Lochner and Triad Design Group. (See Pages 5-6).

Our Congratulations to Zahl-Ford, Inc., and all of our 2011 Award winners!!!!

**Accelerated Bridge Construction: Is the Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil
Integrated Bridge System (GRS-IBS) Right for You?
February 16, 2012
EDC Exchange for Local and Tribal Agencies**

Do you need to replace bridges, but don't have the funds to do it? Are you looking for bridge alternatives that perform well and can save you both time and money? Would you like to utilize your own construction equipment and forces to build simple, strong, and safe bridges? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then the GRS-IBS may be right for you!

The majority of the bridges in the country are the small, single-span bridges that are commonly found on rural and local roads. As the infrastructure ages, weight restrictions or bridge closures are becoming more frequent. With limited resources available, transportation agencies must find innovative, cost-effective solutions to meet these demands. This exchange session provides attendees with background information on the GRS-IBS. To date, the GRS-IBS has been predominately constructed on the local road system with local forces supplying the labor. For the counties utilizing this technology, the result is a lower cost bridge alternative, with savings up to 60%, that can be constructed in as little as 2 weeks. The session will highlight these examples that demonstrate the successful use of the GRS-IBS.

*Join the Federal Highway Administration, the Oklahoma Local Transportation Assistance Program and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for a presentation on the Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System via a live webinar on **February 16, 2012 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.***

Locations for your participation will be located at Center for Local Government Technology on the OSU Campus in Stillwater

The day will include a morning presentation by the Oklahoma FHWA and Russell Earls, Ottawa Co. Commissioner. A bridge using the GRS system was built in Commissioner Earls district last summer by county staff.

To register go to: <http://clgt.okstate.edu/ltap.htm>

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is pleased to welcome our newest member firm.....BOATMANENGINEERING,LLC of Okemah.

The 5-person firm provides Civil Engineering services including National Bridge Inspection Standards certified inspectors; Bridge, Roadway and Pedestrian Plans; Commercial & Industrial Site Grading, Drainage, Water Distribution, Sewer, Planing, Platting, and Zoning; and Construction Management services, along with full Land Surveying services.

Bob Boatman is the Chief Engineer of the firm, and Brad Boatman is Chief Operations Manager and Land Surveyor. Cheryl Adams and Pat Boatman handle the Business & Finance and Administrative duties respectively.

We welcome Boatman Engineering to ACEC OKLAHOMA and ACEC, and look forward to having them as active members of the Council.

**Transportation Day at the Capitol
Tuesday, March 6th
For Information: www.trust.org**

ACEC OKLAHOMA Working with City of Tulsa On Contract Issues

In recent months, firms have seen increasing issues getting contracts finalized with the City. Much of this is due to changes within the insurance industry dealing with cancellation notifications. Additionally, changes in Oklahoma law which became effective in November have limited the City's ability with regard to "additional insured," among other things.

ACEC OKLAHOMA has been in contact with both the City's engineering department and legal department seeking clarifications on the City's requirements and how best firm's can expedite contract approval.

On Monday, February 6th, ACEC OKLAHOMA met with City engineering department staff, and was pleased to learn that resolution seems to be eminent. In the next few weeks it is likely that the City will adopt a new procedures which should make it very easy for firms to provide the information needed.

Once the new procedures are finalized, ACEC OKLAHOMA will provide members with the details.

U.S. House Committee Passes 5-Year Transportation Bill

In the early hours Friday, Feb 3rd, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee approved its 5-year, \$260 billion transportation bill (H.R. 7) by a vote of 29-24.

The bill includes ACEC-backed language requiring State DOTs to contract out for engineering services to the maximum extent practicable. ACEC was able to defeat an amendment that would have weakened the provision by changing "shall" to "may" in the text, and an amendment to delete the provision altogether. [Note: This took place at 1:30 a.m. your ACEC dues were hard at work defending your interests in the dark of night.] The amendments were being pushed by the state transportation employee's union.

The last piece of the House bill is the revenue title to "pay for" the funding levels in the bill. The House Ways & Means Committee is working on a package of financing provisions, including:

- An extension of current gas and diesel fuel taxes and other transportation excise taxes through September 2018,
- A provision dedicating increased revenues from leases from expanded oil and gas development legislation into the Highway Trust Fund, and
- A transfer of \$40 billion into the Trust Fund from the General Fund, to be offset by some unknown source (rumored to be something related to federal employee pensions).

The Ways and Means bill is drawing opposition from some transportation groups because it diverts all gasoline and diesel taxes to the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund, taking away the 2.86 cents per gallon that presently goes to the Mass Transit Account.

In addition to ACEC's long night on the Hill, ACEC OKLAHOMA was working to provide Congressman James Lankford (5th-OK) information to support passage of the bill. The Congressman's Chief of Staff, Randy Swanson, called Jim Sullins at home the evening of February 1st to ask ACEC OKLAHOMA to review the 850-page bill, and provide comments to the Congressman no later than 2:00pm the next day.

After reviewing the bill, the following letter was sent to the Congressman expressing ACEC OKLAHOMA's support and encouraging him to vote for the bill... which he did!

Final action by the full House is expected in mid-February as which time we will put the "full court press" on the Oklahoma delegation to support this important and vital legislation, and to protect the "contracting out" provisions in the bill.

Dear Congressman Lankford:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the newly introduced American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act (H.R. 7).

On February 24, 2011, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a Field Hearing in Oklahoma City at which time ACEC OKLAHOMA provided the Committee with written testimony. At that time, ACEC OKLAHOMA emphasized three points which were important to the engineering community:

- *Effective Utilization of the Private Sector*
- *Efficient Planning by State DOTs*
- *Stable Funding*

In reviewing H.R. 7, ACEC OKLAHOMA is very pleased to learn that all three of these issues are directly addressed in the Act.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), through the leadership of Secretary Ridley, has done an outstanding job of utilizing the private sector. The Department and the consulting engineering community have worked together as Partners to develop programs and processes which have enhanced project delivery which, in turn, provides Oklahomans a cost-effective, safe, and efficient transportation system.

ACEC OKLAHOMA strongly supports provisions in the bill calling for utilization of private sector engineering and design services. ACEC OKLAHOMA also believes that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation should be seen as a national model of how the public and private sectors can work together as a team to best utilize the resources available for the benefit of the motoring public.

The consolidation and streamlining reforms proposed in H.R. 7 will allow more effective planning by ODOT and other state DOTs by eliminating political red-tape, eliminating duplication of programs, speeding up permitting processes, and most importantly, allowing the states to fund projects as they choose thereby addressing their most critical needs. This flexibility will allow ODOT and the other DOTs to focus their planning efforts, and the efforts of their private sector partners, on those projects which are critical to safety and economic development, and which makes sense to the motoring public.

Lastly, the long-term funding provided in H.R. 7 is vital to the success of all of the proposals within the bill. The key component of ODOT and Oklahoma's recent successful highway and bridge construction program was the fact that the Department had a stable, reliable funding source. Regardless of how well a state's transportation program is planned, or how many barriers are removed through consolidation and streamlining, without a stable, reliable funding source, the program will fail. In the case of America's transportation system, Failure Is Not An Option.

Congressman Lankford, ACEC OKLAHOMA, on behalf of our 69 member firms and over 1,850 employees, strongly support the provisions of the American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act.

ACEC OKLAHOMA respectfully asks for your support of this critical legislation, and request that you do everything possible to secure enactment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If we can be of any service or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

David Raymond, ACEC President & CEO

February 1, 2012

We're off to a fast start this year with the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee releasing its five-year surface transportation bill today; I just returned from Committee Chairman Mica's press conference on Capitol Hill, and he recognized ACEC for our leadership on moving this bill forward. Among many provisions, the bill includes, at ACEC's initiative, strong language to make sure that state DOTs contract out to the private sector. Full coverage of the bill will appear in *Last Word* on Thursday. Considering that infrastructure was highlighted in the President's State of the Union, and that the Senate has companion legislation moving this week as well, I think that infrastructure offers one of few important legislative areas where we see realistic prospects for passage this year.

General

* Participated in press conference with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) on the release of the *American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act*, a five-year \$260 billion reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs.

* Secured language in the House transportation bill to require State DOTs to contract out for engineering services to the maximum extent practicable, including a reporting requirement on compliance.

* Executive Committee approved ACEC's 2012 legislative agenda – focused on passing transportation, water and energy legislation, as well as curbing government insourcing and achieving pro-business regulatory reforms.

* Executive Committee also underscored the importance of involving all states and all member firms in meeting the ACEC/PAC 2012 goal as integral to achieving the 2012 legislative agenda.

Government Affairs

* Minuteman Fund grants were approved for ACEC/Alabama (to pass Certificate of Merit Legislation), ACEC/California (to appeal a court decision inflicting unfair liability on engineering firms) and ACEC/Ohio (to support a legal case seeking to dedicate more highway infrastructure funding from the state's taxes).

* Helped gain over 1,000 associations and businesses to sign a letter to every House Member and Senator urging swift passage of the multi-year surface transportation bill.

* Secured language in multiple House bills that will require agencies to justify insourcing decisions, make it easier to account for small business participation on federal contracts, and initiate other pro-business reforms.

* ACEC's Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee (FAPA) promoted federal agency outsourcing with House and Senate committees.

* Launched new survey to assess how many member firms are using the General Services Administration (GSA) supply schedules and if they are getting any work through them.



ACEC's Annual Convention and "Consulting Congress Day" activities will be held Sunday, April 15th through Wednesday, April 18th, at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Washington, DC.

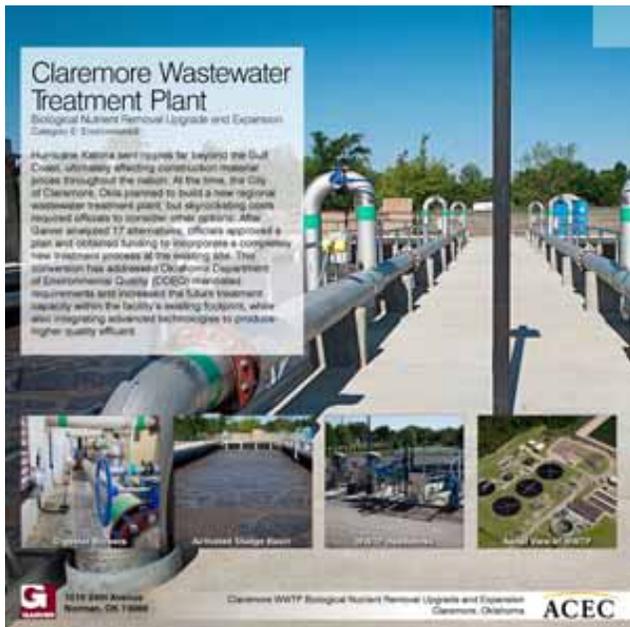
Featured speakers at the General Sessions will include former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, and Lee McIntire, CEO of CH2M Hill. There will also be a CEO Roundtable featuring Steven Blake, ARCADIS; Andrew Buckley, Cardno; and George Little, HDR, along with a variety of other educational programs.

Additionally, the "Consulting Congress Day" activities is your opportunity to go to the Hill and meet with the Oklahoma delegation. ACEC OKLAHOMA will be coordinating the Hill visits in which we will take our issues directly our Oklahoma Congressmen and Senators.

This is always an interesting & exciting meeting, and we urge all ACEC OKLAHOMA members to attend. For more information and to register, visit the ACEC website, www.acec.org.

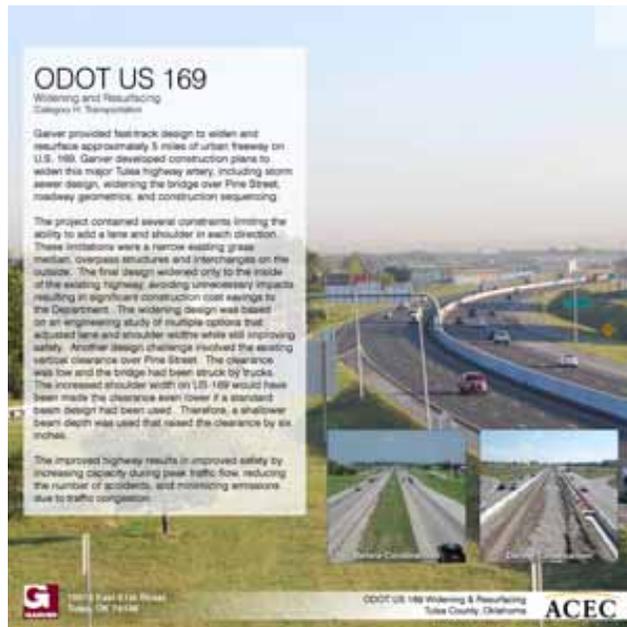
2011 Engineering Excellence Awards

Honor Award



Garver
Claremore Wastewater Treatment Plant

Honor Award



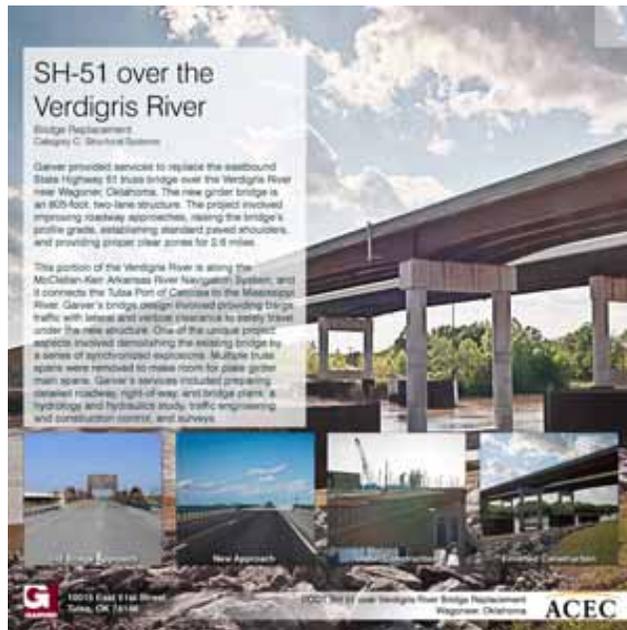
Garver
U.S. 169 Widening and Resurfacing

Honor Award



Garver
Hollis Municipal Airport

Honor Award



Garver
SH-51 Bridge over Verdigris River

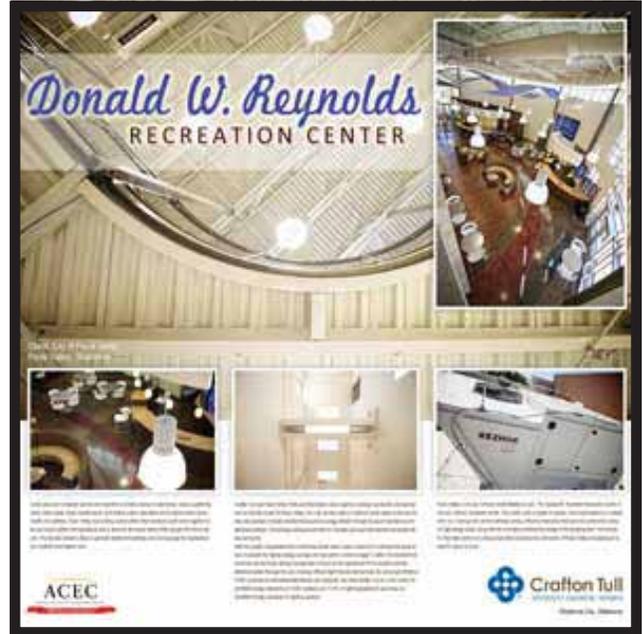
2011 Engineering Excellence Awards

Finalist Award



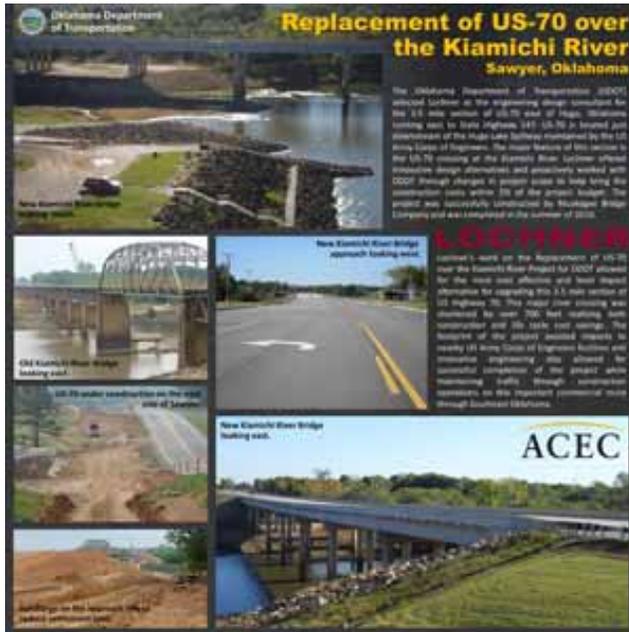
Craffton Tull
Broken Arrow Old Town Study

Finalist Award



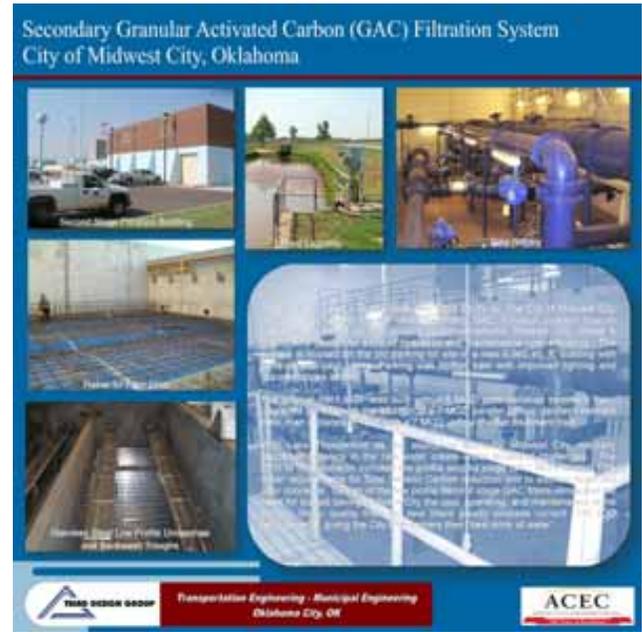
Craffton Tull
Reynolds Recreation Center, Pauls Valley

Finalist Award



Lochner
Replacement of U.S. 70 Over Kiamichi River

Finalist Award



Triad Design Group
Secondary Granular Activated Carbon Filtration System,
Midwest City