

# THE FIRST WORD

February, 2016

## February 1st Ushers In The 2016 Legislative Session \$1 Billion+ Shortfall in State Revenues to Dominate Session

Monday, February 1st will see the return of Oklahoma's 149 state Representatives and Senators to the State Capitol Building for the official beginning of the 2106 session.

Legislators return to Oklahoma City facing upwards of a \$1 Billion shortfall in the state budget which could lead to massive cuts in various state agency budgets.

The session will kick-off with Governor Mary Fallin's annual "State of the State" address in which the Governor has indicated that she will propose a restructuring of the state budget. Fallin contends that the state does not have a revenue problem, but rather a problem with how revenue is allocated.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work. We are going to have to make tough decisions. We are going to have to roll up our sleeves. We are going to have to do our homework. And there will certainly be different groups out here that say, 'Don't touch mine...' But it must be done, because it's just not smart to continue doing it the way we've been doing it," Fallin told reporters at the Associated Press annual legislative forum.

The Governor said her ideas on restructuring the budget will be "very specific" and "look at all our revenue streams and prioritize where our money goes to our core missions of state

agencies and that we lay a solid foundation in our state budget for future generations of Oklahomans."

Fallin said that when preparing her Budget outline for 2016, three options were revealed:

1. A 13.5% budget cut for all state agencies to make up the deficit,
2. Use one-time money and other mechanisms and tricks to balance the budget, or,
3. Restructure the Budget

In addition to the Budget crisis, a number of other issues will face Legislators including Teacher Pay, School Consolidation, School Choice, Transportation Funding, Health Services, Consolidation of some State Agencies, to name a few.

Just over 1,700 bills and resolutions have been introduced for the session, so there will be plenty on everyone's plate as the session begins.

ACECOKLAHOMA will be closely monitoring the Session, and will keep you updated as the Session progresses.

## Welcome New Member!

ACECOKLAHOMA would like to welcome a new member to the Council:

**STV Incorporated**, a branch office of a Pennsylvania based firm, provides Engineering, Architecture, Planning, Environmental, Inspection, and Construction Management services. Scott Young heads the Edmond office.

Welcome **STV Incorporated** to ACECOKLAHOMA!!!!!!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### **TRUST Transportation Day at the Capitol**

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Time & Details to come.

### **ODOT/ACECOKLAHOMA Partnering Conference**

Thursday, May 12, 2016

Marriott Southern Hills

Tulsa

8:00am - 4:00pm



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# 2015 ACEC OKLAHOMA Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC OKLAHOMA presented the 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards Thursday evening, January 28th.

The 2015 Grand Conceptor Award was presented to HDR for the Verdigris Water Treatment Plant in Broken Arrow, OK.

The answer to a 2013 failure of a single-source waterline which left Broken Arrow's 100,000 residents without water for days, cost \$58 million, some \$8 million under it's original budget, and is one of the largest of it's kind in the United States.

Honor Awards were presented to Freese and Nichols, Leidos Engineering, and GUY Engineering.

Finalist Awards went to CEC, Crafton Tull, and Poe & Associates.

ACEC OKLAHOMA congratulates all of the recipients, and looks forward to the 2016 Engineering Excellence Awards competition later this year.

## GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD

### Verdigris Water Treatment Plant Broken Arrow, OK

For more than 30 years, the city of Broken Arrow received purchased drinking water through a worn 23-mile pipeline from another provider. This failed drastically in 2013 when the pipeline ruptured, suspending the city's only water source.

The Verdigris Water Treatment Plant—the first large membrane treatment plant in Oklahoma and one of the largest in the country—is the city's largest-ever public works project. Finished on time and \$6 million below budget, the \$58 million treatment plant is the largest ever funded by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

For the first time, the citizens have complete control over their water supply—from acquisition through disinfection and delivery to customers. The new plant utilizes a state-of-the-art membrane filtration system, which removes microorganisms better than conventional treatment methods by forcing water through extremely fine, porous tubes.

The plant uses free chlorine generated on-site for primary disinfection and chloramines for secondary disinfection. These processes are significantly safer than the commonly used chlorine gas and free chlorine for primary and secondary disinfection—producing fewer disinfection byproducts and improving workplace safety for workers.

The facility's pumps, variable-speed drives, control valves and electrical equipment provide the highest energy efficiency practical—saving 2.4 million kilowatt hours, or \$17,000, annually. The city received a \$500,000 green infrastructure grant for utilizing high-efficiency pumps.

A case study for the state on treatment plant design, the facility contains an advanced laboratory for water quality testing and analyses, which has been used to teach new employees, city staff and industry colleagues.

**Project:** Verdigris Water Treatment Plant | Broken Arrow, Oklahoma  
**Client:** City of Broken Arrow | Broken Arrow, Oklahoma  
**Firm:** HDR | Dallas, Texas

## HONOR AWARD

### COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

City of Norman, Oklahoma | Freese and Nichols, Inc., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The City of Norman's first-ever comprehensive transportation plan addresses thoroughfare, transit, pedestrian and bicycle planning in a single, cohesive document. It is the first time this city of 118,000 has approached transportation as a comprehensive planning activity, enabling the City to move quickly into pursuing funding and implementing prioritized projects across the spectrum of transportation modes and geographic locations.

A 2011 survey of Norman citizens indicated widespread support for development and improvements to transportation infrastructure and support for funding these improvements. The survey also indicated a need for safer, more extensive bike and trail facilities.

At the same time, within the City's Public Works Department, there was a strong need for data and design guidelines to support new and existing infrastructure initiatives.

Freese and Nichols led a consultant team that included the engineering firms of Garver and Alliance Transportation to develop a comprehensive plan to address community needs, expand transportation options and move systems improvements forward.

The project team distilled public input into five Guiding Principles encompassing 38 specific objectives. The team then delivered a multi-faceted plan, including a context-sensitive roadway plan, complete streets guide, roadway design standards, trail and bike system and sidewalk prioritization. The Plan was adopted unanimously by the Norman City Council.

Within its first year, the Plan was used to support funding applications to regional and state agencies for priority projects.

**Freese and Nichols**  
**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**  
**Norman, OK**

## HONOR AWARD

### CREEK TURNPIKE WIDENING TULSA, OKLAHOMA

The Creek Turnpike project included the design and construction for widening approximately 91,000 feet the existing four (4) lane roadway to an 8-lane by adding two lanes along the center median. The median system of the proposed improvements is US-75 and the median system is South Mountain Drive. The proposed median bridge widening project included widening existing 40-foot wide median from an open, depressed ground median into a paved median consisting of an additional traffic lane and median structure in each direction. The new median lanes and shoulders were constructed adjacent to the existing bridge lanes. The Creek median bridge improvements also included widening existing existing Creek Turnpike Bridge.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority  
Oklahoma City  
Oklahoma

**Leidos Engineering**  
**Creek Turnpike Widening**  
**Tulsa, OK**

HONOR AWARD

HONOR AWARD



Leidos Engineering  
I-44/Lewis Avenue Interchange  
Tulsa, OK



GUY Engineering  
Crow Creek Drainage Improvement Project  
Tulsa, OK

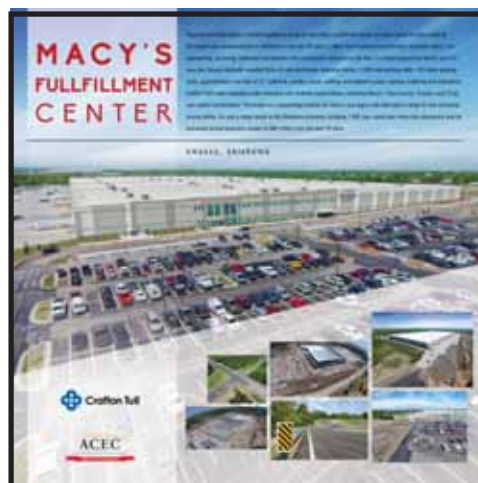
FINALIST AWARD

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CEC  
Extend/Light Runway 17-35  
Woodring Regional Airport, Enid, OK



Crafton Tull  
Macy's Fullfillment Center  
Owasso, OK



Poe & Associates  
I-235 / 10th Street / Harrison Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK



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# President's Report

## February, 2015

### David Raymond, ACEC President

ACEC/PAC raised an incredible \$982,430 in 2015 – I want to thank all of you who helped to achieve this record-shattering amount. Because of your tireless efforts, the Council begins its 2016 advocacy campaign at full steam. As always, we've got a lot on our plate – this year's agenda is focused on FAA reauthorization; comprehensive energy legislation; balanced tax reform; a new WRDA bill; and key regulatory measures. These will be themes for our "citizen lobbyists" at the upcoming national convention in April.

#### General

- \* Final 2015 year-end receipts for ACEC/PAC of \$982,430 set a new all-time fundraising record, as well as a record for total number of donors (2,752), and record number of state organizations meeting their goals (38).
- \* Congratulations to ACEC/Indiana for already meeting its 2016 ACEC/PAC fundraising target!
- \* Met with House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), who discussed prospects for comprehensive energy legislation this year; a full interview with Upton will be featured in the March-April issue of *Engineering Inc.*
- \* The upcoming 2016 ACEC Annual Convention is scheduled for April 17-20 at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. with speakers including Dana Perino, former White House Press Secretary; Daniel Pink, world-renowned business thought leader and best-selling author; and an expert panel of former state DOT heads – [click here for full information and registration](#).
- \* The ACEC-backed Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 progressed to floor debate in the Senate, with provisions to add hydropower to the list of renewable energy sources and establishing an interagency coordinating committee on the "energy-water nexus."
- \* Provided engineering industry views on proposed changes to the AASHTO Audit & Accounting Guide; the revised version is expected to be finalized and published in the coming weeks.
- \* ACEC/PAC co-hosted events for Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), and congressional candidate Rebecca Negron (R).
- \* Briefed state leaders of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming on advocacy gains in 2015 and challenges ahead in 2016.

#### Government Advocacy

- \* Released a white paper on the municipal advisor registration rule, found [here](#), that is designed to be a tool for member firms and their legal advisors as they discuss whether the firm's business activities require registration with the Securities & Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

#### Business Resources

- \* Coalitions released the updated CAMEE *Sample Correspondence Letters Tool*, and updated CASE *Special Inspections* document, available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- \* Coalitions' best sellers for January included CASE's *National Practice Guidelines for the Structural Engineer* and COPS' *Performance Review Tool*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- \* The Call for Presentations for the ACEC 2016 Fall Conference was released and is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPPRGKD>.

