

THE FIRST WORD

July, 2014

Joe Davis Installed as ACEC OKLAHOMA 60th Chairman of the Board

Joe Davis, Managing Partner of Triad Design Group, Oklahoma City, became ACECOKLAHOMA's 60th Chairman of the Board at the conclusion of the Annual Convention in Branson, MO. Davis succeeds Chuck Mitchell, Crafton Tull, Tulsa, as ACECOKLAHOMA's chief elected officer.

Joe Davis grew up in Midwest City and received his BS and MS from Oklahoma State University. He worked for Oklahoma Department of Transportation during college where he met his wife, Susan. Following college, he worked for ODOT, then went to work for the City of Edmond as its City Engineer. Joe and Susan have two sons with the older starting his sophomore year at OU in the fall and younger will start his senior year in high school.

Joe Davis joined Triad Design Group's Civil Engineering Department in 1994. In 1996 he became a Partner of the firm. Davis has responsibility for municipal engineering projects, working with the Cities of Edmond, Midwest City, Piedmont, and Yukon, Oklahoma. His duties include design, analysis, and supervision of construction of paving, highway, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water resource projects for these municipalities. Mr. Davis is also Partner-in-Charge of Triad's transportation engineering work for clients that include The Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma County, and The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.

Also elected to serve with Davis on the 2014-15 ACEC OKLAHOMA Board of Directors were:

* Chairman Elect: Brent Schniers, Garver, Tulsa

* Vice Chairman Membership: Marty Hepp, CEC, Oklahoma City

* Treasurer: Brandon Claborn, Meshek and Associates, Tulsa

* Vice Chairman Business Practice: Keith Angier, MacArthur Associated Consultants, Oklahoma City

* Vice Chairman Education/P.R.: Jim Hemphill, Poe & Associates, Tulsa

Steve Ford, ZFI Engineering Co., Oklahoma City remains on the Board serving the third year of his three year term as ACEC National Director.

Outgoing Chairman Chuck Mitchell will also remain on the Board of the Immediate Past Chairman.



Joe Davis; Chuck Mitchell

Welcome New Members

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome two new member firms!

AIA Engineers, LTD, Oklahoma City, is a 2-person office providing Bridge & Roadway Design, Hydraulics, Traffic, and Bridge Inspection, led by Ahmed Abd-El-Mequid.

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Sand Springs, is a 3-person office headed by David Cross. The firm offers a variety of services including water/wastewater, roadway, airports, and land development

Welcome AIA Engineers & McClelland Consulting Engineers!



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ALERT -- ALERT--ALERT!!!!

ACEC OKLAHOMA just learned that all State DOTs received a letter today (July 1st) from USDOT Secretary Foxx outlining the ***USDOT's plan to limit reimbursement payments to states*** effective August 1st. The "cash management" procedures will happen in the absence of Congressional action.

While we have not talked with ODOT specifically regarding Secretary Foxx's announcement, we do know that ODOT had contingency plans in December, 2013 when it seemed that similar action by USDOT might be necessary.

ACEC OKLAHOMA will follow this situation closely and keep our members informed regarding any pending action.

Highway Trust Fund Patch Expected in July; ACEC Member Action Needed

Congressional committee leaders are continuing to work on a way to avoid the impending shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund in late July. Both sides appear committed to finding a solution, as no one wants a shut-down of transportation projects at the height of construction season. But, the details have not yet come together.

The Senate Finance Committee postponed action last week on a draft bill to supplement the Highway Trust Fund with \$8.4 billion in order to accommodate on-going negotiations.

The Finance Committee meeting will resume during the week of July 7 after the Independence Day recess of Congress. Committee leaders are also reported in talks with House Ways & Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) on what House Republicans could agree to. These bi-cameral negotiations may ease passage of a final deal in both houses in mid-July.

In order to continue to raise awareness of the urgency for action, ACEC is asking all of our members to write to your member of Congress and your two senators on the need for a short-term patch and a long-term transportation funding solution.

To access a sample letter which you can personalize with firm-specific information, visit the ACEC website (www.acec.org), and click on the "ACEC ACTION ALERT" in the left-hand column.

ACEC OKLAHOMA 2014-15 Meeting Calendar

Below is the Meeting Calendar for the coming year. Please mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these important meetings.

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Board & General Membership Meeting (Lunch)
9:00am Board Meeting; 11:45am General Meeting
& Luncheon
Oklahoma City

October 22-25, 2014

ACEC Fall Conference
Kona, Hawaii

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Board & General Membership Meeting (Lunch)
9:00am Board Meeting; 11:45am General Meeting
& Luncheon
Tulsa

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Board & General Membership Meeting and EEA
Awards Dinner
2:00pm Board Meeting; 5:00pm General Meeting
& EEA Awards Dinner
Oklahoma City

February, March, and April, 2015 (Dates TBD)

Leadership For Engineers
Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Stillwater

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Board & General Membership Meeting (Dinner)
2:00pm Board Meeting; 5:00pm General Meeting
& Dinner
Tulsa

April 19-22, 2015

ACEC Annual Convention
Washington, DC

Late April/Early May

ODOT/ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conf.
(Date/Location to be determined.)

June 4-6, 2015

ACEC Midwest States Annual Convention
Chateau on the Lake
Branson, MO



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President's Report

July, 2014

David Raymond, ACEC President

Heading into the 4th of July holiday, ACEC's results-oriented business program was highlighted by: the President's signature on WRRDA with new funding and procurement reforms advocated by ACEC; major media awards for *Engineering Inc.* and *Last Word* as effective membership communication tools; and ACEC's award of Minuteman Fund grants to our Wisconsin, Missouri and Massachusetts chapters in support of major infrastructure initiatives. Our Fall Conference in Hawaii is coming together nicely, with a great line-up of speakers (See online at www.acec.org or the brochure which mails next week). Happy Independence Day!

General

- President Obama signed WRRDA into law, which includes \$12.3 billion in new project authorizations, reforms to the project delivery process, a new requirement to use QBS on federally funded wastewater projects, and language encouraging more contracting out by the Corps of Engineers.
- *Engineering Inc.* won the APEX Grand Award for publication excellence and *Last Word* won an APEX award for newsletter excellence – maintaining the continuing tradition of high standards for these two publications.
- Minuteman Fund grants were awarded to ACEC/Wisconsin, ACEC/Missouri and ACEC/Massachusetts to support various state initiatives related to infrastructure funding.
- ACEC's Land Development Coalition (LDC) grew from 32 to 72 member firms over the past fiscal year, attributable to an active membership recruitment campaign and a rejuvenated market.
- Joined with broad business coalition to support permanent extension of Section 179 expensing, which allows firms to deduct up to \$500,000 of equipment in the year it is purchased.
- Lobbied for legislation that would make it easier for S corporations that were previously structured as C corporations to access the firm's capital without tax penalties.
- Advocated reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which provides funding, loan guarantees and credit insurance to support the export of US products and services (including engineering).
- Solicited member input in response to an EPA and Corps of Engineers regulatory announcement to expand the Clean Water Act's definition of wetlands.
- Urged the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to make changes to the FAR and Defense FARs to eliminate both the 6% limitation on fees and redundant data collection from A/E firms mandated through the enterprise-wide Contractor Manpower Reporting Application (eCMRA).

Government Advocacy

- The House of Representatives approved the ACEC-endorsed North American Energy Infrastructure Act to establish a clear and efficient approval process for pipelines and transmission lines linked to Canada and Mexico.
- Briefed members in Georgia and Kentucky on the SEC municipal advisor registration rule and other key issues.



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