

ACEC OKLAHOMA UPDATE

May 15, 2020

In This Update:

- **ACEC OKLAHOMA Business Impact Survey Results**
- **Legislative Update - ODOT Takes Hit Next Year**
- **ACEC OKLAHOMA Virtual Annual Meeting**
- **ACEC National "Free to Members" Webinars in May**
- **SBA Safe Harbor Deadline Extended to May 18th**



ACEC OKLAHOMA Business Impact Survey Results

First of all, thanks to the firm principals who responded to our Business Impact Survey. The purpose of the survey was to get more specific Oklahoma data to compare to the national data which ACEC national has been collecting.

Legislative Update ODOT ROADS Fund Held Harmless for FY21, but Hit for \$170 million in FY22

The Oklahoma Legislature has returned to Oklahoma City, and it's been very interesting around the Capitol the past two weeks.

Some 45% of ACEC OKLAHOMA member firms responded, which is an outstanding response.

Here's some of the numbers from Oklahoma, and when appropriate, compared to the most recent ACEC national survey (red) :

59% of ACEC OKLAHOMA member firms applied, and over 95% were approved. **Nationally, 94% of those were approved.**

17% of ACEC OKLAHOMA members have received projects since March 1st directly related to COVID-19 response. **Nationally, 12% of firms report working on new projects directly related to the COVID-19 up from 8% two weeks ago.**

55% of ACEC OKLAHOMA members believe things will return to "normal" in 6 months or less, while 30% feel it will take 12 months or longer. **Nationally, 36% of firms feel it will take 12 to 18 months for a return to normal.**

A vast majority of firms plan to implement a large number of safety measures once they re-open. Social Distancing (95%) and allowing staff to work remotely to care for others (90%) topped the "Safety Measures" for Oklahoma firms. **Nationally, maintaining social distancing (95%) and allowing staff to work remotely to care for others (85%) top the list.**

48% of Oklahoma firms, and (49%) **nationally** , say they will restrict or prohibit domestic travel for training/events/conferences after stay-at-home orders are lifted.

To see how your firm stacks up with regards to other ACEC OKLAHOMA firms and to view the ACEC OKLAHOMA survey results and comments, [click here](#) .

ACEC Free-to-Member Webinars

ACEC is hosting a number of free-to-members webinar in the coming days which we encourage in which we encourage you to participate.

Dominating the news has been the kerfuffal between the Republican led House and Senate and the Republican Governor. Upon return, the House and Senate focused on the developing a FY21 budget which has over a \$1 Billion hole due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A budget was finally agreed to, passed, and sent to the Governor. But, the Governor decided to veto the main budget bills, which lead to a almost historic session on Wednesday, when the House and Senate overwhelmingly voted to override the Governor's vetoes.

Of interest and serious concern to ACEC OKLAHOMA is a provision within HB 2743 which rolls-back \$170 million in annual transfers from the ROADS fund in FY 21 AND FY 22!

For FY 21, the Legislature authorized ODOT to issue \$200 million in bonds, to cover the \$170 million loss to ROADS plus the debt service. BUT, the additional bonding was NOT DONE for the FY 22 year. So, unless this is corrected in the 2022 Legislative session, ODOT will take a huge hit as will the 8-Year Plan.

There are other things of interest going on fast and furious as the Legislature heads toward adjournment. ACEC OKLAHOMA is watching closely and will keep you updated as necessary.

RELATED NOTESecretary Tim Gatz has asked ACEC OKLAHOMA to co-host a virtual "town hall" for ACEC OKLAHOMA members after the Legislative session ends and the dust settles. Gatz wants to personally update our members on the Session and give an overall review of the ODOT/OTA current and future operation. So, be watching for details in early June.

PARTNERING CONFERENCE UPDATE
The Conference was reschedule for late June with the hope that "normal" would return by then. But, it doesn't look like that will be the case. ACEC OKLAHOMA is working with the hotel to determine a possible future date, and we will let you know as soon as possible. Again, watch for updates

The webinars are:

Medium Firm Roundtable (51-200 Employees) , Friday, May 15, 3:30-4:30 pm ET.

ACEC Young Professional Series: Serving the Firm in a Virtual Environment Monday, May 18, 1:30-2:30 pm ET.

Guidelines and Protocols to Reduce Your Company's Risk Exposure as You Bring Your Employees Back to the Office Wednesday, May 20, 1:30-2:30 pm ET.

Small Firm Roundtable (Up to 50 Employees) , Wednesday, May 20, 3:30 am-4:30 pm ET.

Tools for Focus, Presence and Empathy in a Changed World , Thursday, May 21, 11:30-12:30 pm ET.

Private/Vertical Roundtable , Thursday, May 21, 1:30-2:00 pm ET.

Controlling Healthcare Costs through Worksite Wellness , Thursday, May 21, 3:30-4:30 pm ET.

Young Professional Roundtable , Friday, May 22, 1:00-2:00 pm ET.

Go Green – Save Green: Taking Advantage of Your Sustainable Designs , Tuesday, May 26, 3:30-4:30 pm ET.

ACEC Young Professional Series: Working with Clients in the Age of COVID-19 Wednesday, May 27, 1:30-2:30 pm ET.

Beyond the Crisis — Getting Ready for Tomorrow Thursday, May 28, 1:30-2:30 pm ET.

Also, if you've missed any of ACEC's webinars, most are available to stream. Simply go to the **ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center** , scroll down, and click on "Webinars."

There's a wealth of information available to all ACEC members, and we encourage you

ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual Meeting to be held Virtual

As announced last week, the ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual meeting is going virtual.

Annual Meeting of the Council Monday, June 8, 2020 1:30pm - 4:00pm Via Zoom

Registration information will be sent soon to all member firms.

As it is the Council's Annual meeting where the annual Budget is considered and Election of Officers takes place, it will be open to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members. Registration invitation will be sent as we get closer to the event.

SBA "Safe Harbor" Deadline Extended to May 18th

ACEC reports that following Wednesday's update, Treasury and SBA have added an additional Q&A to the document that extends the safe harbor date from May 14th (today) to May 18th – see the updated **Frequently Asked Questions** , Question 46 regarding the safe harbor and required certification, and new Question 47 related to the extension below:

Question: An SBA interim final rule posted on May 8, 2020 provided that any borrower who applied for a PPP loan and repays the loan in full by May 14, 2020 will be deemed by SBA to have made the required certification concerning the necessity of the loan request in good faith. Is it possible for a borrower to obtain an extension of the May 14, 2020 repayment date?

Answer: Yes, SBA is extending the repayment date for this safe harbor to May 18, 2020, to give borrowers an opportunity to review and consider FAQ #46. Borrowers do not need to apply for this extension. This

to take advantage of this resource.

extension will be promptly implemented through a revision to the SBA's interim final rule providing the safe harbor.



James F. Sullins, CAE
President & CEO
220 N.E. 28th Street, Suite 135
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Phone: (405) 525-7696
Cell: (405) 826-6481
Fax: (405) 557-1820
Email: jsullins@acecok.org

Let's Connect:

