



Dear Colleagues –

With no appetite for a repeat of last year’s government shutdown debacle, Congress in September approved a short-term Continuing Resolution that will fund government operations through December 11 (not exactly a profile in courage). However, House Speaker John Boehner this week singled out infrastructure funding as an area for further bipartisan progress when Congress returns after the November election. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), visiting ACEC for discussions last week, also said that infrastructure funding held promise and looked forward to working with us to achieve a successful bill. Several MOs received Minuteman Fund grants to support infrastructure initiatives in their states. Over the past month the Council has also secured a majority of the House on a bipartisan letter to preserve cash accounting, which effectively inoculates the current practice against recent threats to it. Fourteen MOs have already achieved their annual ACEC/PAC goals, which bolsters our positions in Fall election campaigns. National political analyst Charlie Cook will be handicapping these races for you at our Fall Conference in Hawaii in a few weeks. See you then.

Dave

PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY UPDATE

October 1, 2014

General

- Awarded Minuteman Fund grants to ACEC/Georgia, ACEC/Idaho and ACEC/Massachusetts in support of transportation funding; and ACEC/Virginia to combat efforts to undermine the state’s QBS law.
- Missouri Senator Roy Blunt visited ACEC headquarters for a discussion of major regulatory and funding issues before Congress.
- Alaska, Illinois, North Dakota and Nebraska made their 2014 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals; currently 14 state organizations have crossed the finish line.

Government Advocacy

- 233 Representatives – a majority of the House – signed a bipartisan letter urging House leadership to reject proposed changes to current cash accounting rules.
- Expressed concerns to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board about a proposed rule that would limit political contributions from registered municipal advisors to candidates for state and local government offices.
- Secured an extension of Export-Import Bank’s authorization through June 30, 2015 in the 2014 Continuing Resolution; and continue to lobby for a longer term reauthorization.
- ACEC/PAC co-hosted and helped organize fundraising and campaign events for Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Representatives Ken Calvert (R-CA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Devin Nunes (R-CA), Dave Loebsack (D-IA), Diane Black (R-TN), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Janice Hahn (D-CA), Rick Nolan (D-MN), Tom Price (R-GA), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Reid Ribble (R-WI), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), and Candidate Doug Ose (R-CA).
- The Federal Highway Administration released the next round of its “Every Day Counts” series of project delivery acceleration and technology deployment initiatives, with participation from several MOs.
- ACEC Member firms worked with Treasury Department officials at an infrastructure investment summit to develop strategies for facilitating public-private partnerships and advance innovative financing mechanisms.
- The House passed *The American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act*, a package of ACEC-backed energy initiatives that would modernize energy infrastructure and expand the development of new energy sources.
- The Florida Department of Transportation won the 2014 Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) Award for consistently exceeding statutory requirements in applying QBS to procurement.
- The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee released a report on Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) that reflects ACEC’s view that P3s are an important financing tool but not an alternative to strong Federal core transportation funding.

Business Resources

- ACEC’s Senior Executives Institute began its 20th annual program including visits to Capitol Hill and policy discussions at the Brookings Institution.
- EJCDC released new P3 (Public/Private Partnership) contract document, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- Record attendance at the IT, Finance and HR Forums in September.

- Small Firm Council membership recruitment campaign netted 22 new members, making SFC the largest coalition with 162 members.
- September was another great month for ACEC webinars, which included: *Find the Lost Dollars – 6 Steps to Increase Profits in A/E Firms*; *Betting the Firm: Managing the Risks of Indemnity Clauses in Professional Services Agreements*; *Legal Issues Unique to Design-Build*; *A Review of the New Affirmative Action Regulations for Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities*; *Opportunities Lost: 16 Missing Things from Most Marketing and Business Strategies*; *Be Memorable and Win More Work*.
- Don't miss these webinars coming in October: *What is the Right Value for your Firm*; *Negotiating Better Engineering Contracts*; *Raising Your Marketing ROI – Using Real-World Numbers to Measure and Manage your Firm*; *Expand Your Business: How to Diversify Your Network and Get Out of a Rut*; *Policies for Maximizing Revenue without Sacrificing Your Firm's FAR Overhead*