Statehouse legislators making strides

ACEC Indiana’s Annual Legislative Luncheon drew a solid crowd to hear the perspective of two leaders on the “short” session on January 11 at the Indianapolis Downtown Hilton.

Addressing the crowd were State Senator Phil Boots (R-Crawfordsville) who chairs the Pensions & Labor Committee, and State Representative Greg Beumer (R-Farmland) who serves as Vice Chairman of the House Environmental Committee.

Knowing the interest of ACEC Indiana members in the key road funding bills, the audience was encouraged that it was a top priority to both chambers. However, Beumer pointed out that “on every major issue, there are multiple versions of bills on how to solve problems.” This is evidenced by the House Republican proposal (HB 1001) which included a myriad of funding sources including a gas tax increase/indexing and more options for locals, or the Senate version (SB 333) which relies on the use of the state surplus for a short-term boost and bonding and more, as well as supplemental proposals for locals (SB 67) to redistribute local income tax funds back to locals for either use on roads or set aside in a “rainy day” fund.

Senator Boots, who owns Boots Brothers Oil Co. drew applause stating “gasoline tax is a user fee” but also cautioned that it was a declining source due to fuel efficiency and CAFÉ standards, so state leaders think about future alternatives, as well.

With the various proposals each moving through their respective chambers, both legislators urged ACEC members to stay in contact with the own legislators to voice their opinion, offer expertise, as the session continued. It is too early to tell what the final road funding “package” may include, but we stand a better chance at a long term solution if you remain engaged!


BOTTOM RIGHT: Sen. Phil Boots talks with ACEC Indiana Board Member Jim Longest, Beam, Longest & Neff, prior to the luncheon.

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