ACEC Indiana recently recognized several individuals for their contributions to the consulting engineering profession—including ACEC Indiana Consulting Engineer of the Year, President’s Award, and the Gus Grissom Award—at its Annual Recognition Luncheon.

Scott Hornsby, PE, GAI Consultants, was recognized as the 2017 Consulting Engineer of the Year. As Hornsby ascended into the presidency, he saw a critical gap in ACEC’s advocacy efforts to help achieve more significant and lasting funding for our state highway and local road system. To complement BIC’s activity, under his leadership, ACEC established the Transportation Funding Committee. Through its legislative outreach, the effort was to show support to legislators to take action in the 2017 session, and not delay any longer.

The results showed, with huge turnout by ACEC Indiana members at Road Funding days, calls and e-mails of support to get passage of the legislation, social media and special websites. Without his vision, ACEC would still have been involved but not as organized or as effective in its resolution to move this bill to the finish line.

Vicki Kitchin, Executive Director of Build Indiana Council, received the 2017 President’s Award for tirelessly leading the educational, coalition-building and governmental affairs efforts to reach state and federal legislators and the public at large about the value of a well-functioning highway and road system for the Crossroads of America.

Kitchin kept the coalition on a dedicated path, marching towards the 2017 legislative session with a robust agenda to obtain $1.2B in new funding for Indiana’s highways and roads. Working closely with Chairman Soliday and other legislative leaders, Kitchin and BIC’s lobbyists maneuvered legislation to its successful passage, marking an historic investment in surface transportation infrastructure for the state of Indiana.

Ed Soliday, Chairman of the House Roads and Transportation Committee, received the Gus Grissom Award, which honors a legislator who has supported the engineering profession in moving to a new frontier. Chairman Soliday remained focused on a “data driven” solution to Indiana’s transportation funding needs, leading the formation of the “Funding Indiana’s Roads For a Stronger Safer Tomorrow” Task Force. In 2016, he was the driver to creating a new “local road and bridge matching grant fund” called Community Crossings, and redirected 1.5 cents of the 7 cents of sales tax on gasoline.

Through the culmination of his efforts started a decade ago, Chairman Soliday spearheaded the state highway and local road funding package in House Enrolled Act 1002 that will reach $1.2 billion by FY 2024. Signed into law by Governor Holcomb in April, Chairman Soliday ushered through the largest infrastructure investment in Indiana’s history.

Vicki Kitchin, recipient of the President's Award; Shelby Swango, ACEC Indiana Secretary; Chairman Ed Soliday, recipient of the Gus Grissom Award; Cheryl Cunningham, ACEC Indiana President; and Mike Obergfell, ACEC Indiana Vice President.