IN FOCUS

As we near the end of 2020, I am sure many of you cannot wait as we count down the days, hours, and minutes. Recently ACEC/PA sent a letter to Governor Wolf, PennDOT Secretary Gramian and State Treasurer Torsella regarding the impacts from the “pause” to the industry due to PennDOT’s funding crisis. The year is not over, and we have much left to do but as we turn to 2021, we will continue to serve you and your firms.

We are still engaged in many initiatives with PennDOT, PTC, DGS, DCNR and many coalitions and with partners. We have many task forces and serve on various committees associated with a plethora of these topics and welcome members to help serve as positions become available.

Just around the corner we will be celebrating the industry at the 2021 Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence on January 28th. This event is free to attend but attendance is limited so register today. We are asking for your firms support of this celebration by becoming a sponsor.

In early 2021 you will receive our 2021 Member Directory as will our local, state, and federal partners, various associations, clients, and many others. This is such an important way to learn more about other members and have people learn about your firm. Advertising opportunities are available now but will expire soon. This is a cost-effective way to be in front of thousands of decision makers. Don’t miss this opportunity!

Finally, register for the upcoming Eastern, Western and Central Chapters along with Government Affairs Meetings which will all be held virtually for the spring season.

Thank you for being part of ACEC/PA in 2020 and together we will conquer whatever 2021 brings!!!

Leeann

Leeann Sherman, MPS, CAE
Executive Director
Stay on top of issues pertaining to transportation and other legislative matters.

• Transportation Recap - Read it here
• Capitol Recap - Read it here
• Bill Tracker - Read it here

Pennsylvania holds off on joining regional program to cap emissions from cars, trucks by raising fuel costs
Gov. Tom Wolf declined Monday to sign on to a multi-state program designed to impose a cap on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks...Read more

Wolf Administration Unveils Mid-Year Budget Report
Last week, the Commonwealth reached the midway point of the 2020-21 Fiscal Year and the Wolf Administration released its update on Pennsylvania’s financial situation up to this point…Read more

PA Chamber Urges Vaccine Distribution for Essential Workers
As the first round of vaccines began to be distributed across the Commonwealth, the PA Chamber sent a letter to Gov. Tom Wolf last week urging prioritization of the state’s critical infrastructure workers as it relates to the administration of the vaccine…Read more

Here’s What's in the New $900 Billion Stimulus Package
Congressional leaders brokered a deal on a roughly $900 billion relief bill Sunday night, with promises to pass the legislation as soon as possible, potentially as soon as Monday…Read more

U.S. DOT Broadens Eligibility for DBE Participation
The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) says it will broaden eligibility for firms to participate in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program by raising its gross receipts cap. Under one of the program’s certification requirements, a DBE firm’s three-year average of gross receipts may not exceed the cap…Read more

PA Chamber-Led Coalitions Urge Congress to Enact Covid-19 Liability Protections
As Congress works toward agreement on a second round of COVID-19 relief to Americans, PA Chamber-led coalitions of more than 80 chambers of commerce and more than 75 statewide associations across the Commonwealth sent letters to Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation last week urging them to adopt temporary, targeted liability reforms as part of the disaster relief legislation…Read more
PA Chamber Applauds EOA on Recent Air Quality Rules
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced last week that it will retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter; and that it has finalized a rule to increase transparency and consistency in considering costs and benefits in air quality-related rulemakings…Read more

Pennsylvania Spent $35M on Plastic Face Shields in Early 2020
Nearly a third of the $110 million that Pennsylvania spent on personal protective equipment and ventilators in the early months of the pandemic went toward face shields, a relatively niche item for which there wasn’t as much demand as for other kinds, according to an Associated Press tally…Read more

Governor Wolf Announces 13 Municipalities Will Receive Red Light Enforcement Funds to Improve Traffic Safety
Governor Tom Wolf today announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will distribute $8.2 million in Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funding to 13 municipalities statewide to fund 16 safety projects…Read more

Congress to Approve COVID Relief Package with Transportation Aid
An eight-month congressional log jam on COVID relief is breaking and a $900 billion package is heading to Americans in time for the holidays…Read more

2020-2021 Calendar of Events
Please mark your calendars for these important dates of our upcoming conferences, networking, educational opportunities, scholarship fundraising, board meetings and more.

Monthly PennDOT Clearance Transmittal Webinar
January 21 ● 1 p.m.
Join Skype Meeting
Toll number: (267) 332-8737
Conference ID: 56863635

Western Chapter
January 8 ● virtual

Government Affairs
January 13 ● virtual
Central Chapter
January 13 ● virtual

January Eastern
January 19 ● virtual

2021 Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence
January 28 ● virtual
ACEC/PA Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence will be held virtually on January 28, 2021 and will be complimentary for all members and partners. To register, visit the ACEC/PA 2021 Diamond Awards event page. To support this amazing event through sponsorship review and complete the sponsorship details.

ACEC/PA Spring Conference
TBD

COMMITTEE NEWS

You Are ACEC/PA
We have 22 different committees looking for your leadership and expertise. Check out the committee page to see which one is for you. Those interested in learning more should contact the ACEC/PA office at (800) 651-1946 or ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann Sherman.

2021 Payroll Reference Guide
As another year draws to a close, your RKL team has compiled payroll information to help you plan for 2021. Click here to access our 2021 payroll reference guide.

Key Change for Tax Year 2020: Form 1099-NEC
Starting with the 2020 tax year, certain nonemployee compensation over $600 must be reported via Form 1099-NEC. This replaces the nonemployee compensation payment reporting on Form 1099-MISC. There are several nuances to determine whether to use a
Form 1099-NEC or Form 1099-MISC to report transactions and payments.

Forms 1099-NEC and 1099-MISC are due to the recipient by February 1, 2021. These forms must be filed with the IRS by March 1, 2021 (hard copy) or March 31, 2021 (electronic). Learn more about 1099 changes for the 2020 tax year.

As always, we are happy to help with filing or answer any questions you may have. Please don’t hesitate to contact your RKL advisor.

From all of your friends at RKL, best wishes to you for a happy, healthy and hopeful new year!

ACEC On-Demand Online Classes
Educational convenience, flexibility and cost savings come together with ACEC on-demand online classes…Learn more

Buses in Lancaster now have Wi-Fi Thanks to Partnership with T-Mobile
It was recently announced that Red Rose Transit (RRTA) riders in Lancaster will be receiving free mobile Wi-Fi due to a new partnership with T-Mobile…Read more

RESOURCES

PA 2021 Senate Session Schedule
To be announced

PA 2021 House Session Schedule
January 5, 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27
February 1, 2, 3
March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
April 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
May 3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26
June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30
September 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29
October 4, 5, 6, 25, 26, 27
November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17
December 13, 14, 15

ACEC Advocacy Center
See more here
Traffic Manual Updates Set Stage for Innovation and Repeal of Proprietary Products Ban

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Dec. 14 released its first comprehensive update in 11 years to the manual that governs the standards for traffic control devices such as safety signs and pavement markings…Read more

American Road and Transportation Builders Association
View information here

New ACEC Podcast Episode with Barge Design Solutions
Listen here

Cheerios…
Thought you might enjoy a little smile these days. I remember 1999 when this Cheerios commercial came out with grandma and the baby in the highchair. Now, Cheerios has updated it…scroll about ¾ of the way down and you will see the new commercial.

ACEC/PA Needs Your Help
- Do you have committee news to share or know of a colleague/firm making a difference? We’d want to share that news! Please send ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann Sherman the information for inclusion in an upcoming edition of forward.
- We want to communicate with you. Please take a moment to update your profile with us so you don’t miss any important news or events.

Did You Know?
The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that are dyed green!

Connect with Us on Social Media
News travels fast. Please follow ACEC/PA on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest company news and industry highlights, and benefit from a range of useful resources.
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