As a volunteer-based organization ACEC-FL’s success is entirely dependent on the involvement of our Member Firms and the participation of their staff. Over the years, we have been truly fortunate to have had the support of many local, national, and international firms in Florida. Today ACEC-FL consists of over 330 firms and more than 19,000 individuals employed by the member firms. Even though ACEC-FL represents less than 6% of businesses registered as providing engineering services in Florida, our efforts and successes benefit all engineering firms in the state. Over the last few years ACEC-FL Board of Directors have implemented changes to make our organization more visible and provide greater access to local businesses.

Our first step was to re-brand the organization, from Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) to American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL). Being a member of the national ACEC organization grants us name recognition and strengthens our Florida member firms’ position in the business environment through government advocacy, political action, and business education.

Our next major change was to reorganize the board, including creating seven new director positions, one for each existing region in the Florida Engineering Society. The primary goal of the Regional Directors was to extend the voice of the engineering industry from Washington and Tallahassee down to the local firms and make ACEC-FL more accessible to smaller and more diverse engineering groups. To help support this effort, the new directors were tasked with launching local ACEC groups within their regions. Please visit our website for more information on the Regions and Regional Directors.

On the national front ACEC is asking Members Organizations to contact their US House and Senate representative’s offices advocating for additional funding for state departments of transportation, transit agencies, airports, and water utilities. Additionally, staff are working to get clarification of the tax treatment of PPP loan proceeds and liability protections for employers who make reasonable efforts to comply with coronavirus standards and regulations. Please engage through Action Alert to contact your Representative and Senators today!

Since I have your attention, please take a moment to review our second annual publications supporting our motto “Engineers Behind the Everyday and the Extraordinary”. The new brochures, prepared by ACEC-FL Public Relation Committee, are a great resource to raise awareness of engineers’ roles in our society.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting all of you face-to-face again soon. Take care and be safe in these challenging times.

Shahin Hekmat, P.E.
ACEC-FL Board of Director, President
shah@thompson-inc.com
**Upcoming ACEC-FL Events**

**FREE Webinar:**

**ACEC Florida Members’ Benefits & Resources.**
**The Trusts Are Here to Help**

**When:** Tuesday, October 6th, 2020  
**Time:** 12:00PM – 1:00PM  
**Deadline to Register:** October 5th, 11:59PM

[Click Here to Register]

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**Advanced Training: The Florida Accessibility Code**  
**Ch. 2 Scoping Requirements**

**When:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00AM - 12:00 PM

**PDH Approvals:** Credit Hours and certificates provided directly through JC Code & Construction Consultants, Inc.

FBPE: 0009142 (2 hrs. Areas of Practice - Details)  
FBC: 629.2 (Advanced)

*For additional PDH approvals, please visit our website.*

**Pricing:**
- **FES/ACEC-FL Member:** $50  
- **Non-Member:** $100  
- **Student Member:** Free

[Click Here for Registration Details]

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**The Laws, Rules, and Ethics Governing the Practice of Engineering in Florida**

**When:** Thursday, November 5, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

**PDH Credit:** 1 hr. Laws & Rules and 1 hr. Ethics (Required for Professional Engineers - Click here for details)
Pricing:
- FES/ACEC-FL Member: $50
- Non-Member: $100
- Student Member: Free

Click Here to Register

Legislative News

Florida Stormwater Regulations Update
Brought to you by the ACEC-FL Land Development Committee

Speaker – Mark Thomasson, PE - Littlejohn, Mann & Associates

Tuesday, October 13th at 11 AM: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the water management districts (WMD's) are directed by SB 712 to update Florida’s stormwater design and operations regulations.

Join this webinar to find out what is happening with those updates and what you can expect from the new regulations as well as what big issues remain to be addressed.

This webinar is open to all members and their clients, as well as non-members. PDH Credits: 0

Register HERE

The ACEC-FL/ Florida Office of Energy (FOE) Liaison Subcommittee met with the FOE virtually September 15.

Topics of discussion included - Florida Counties Low-income Residential Energy Efficient Grant Program, Florida Wastewater Plant Energy Program, Florida Advisory Committee on Climate & Energy, PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program in Florida, as well as Energy Efficiency Day October 7.

Contact Samantha Hobbs and get involved today in the ACEC-FL Energy Committee!

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces $1 Billion to Upgrade American Infrastructure

U.S. Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced that the Trump Administration will invest $1 billion in American infrastructure through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

The funding has been awarded to 70 projects in 44 states. Read the full article HERE.

Florida Projects –
- I-75/Big Bend Road Mobility and Access Project Florida $25,000,000
- Tampa Multimodal Network and Safety Improvements Florida $24,000,000

Florida Agency Planning and Budgeting Instructions
(Released August 2020)
Major changes are being requested from all agencies due to the projected budget shortfall.

- Legislative Budget Request (LBR) Instructions for FY 2021-22
- Capital Improvements Program Plan (CIP) Instructions for FY 2021-22
- Long-Range Program Plan (LRPP) Instructions for FY 2021-22


The final version of the 7th Edition (2020) Florida Building Code (FBC) is now available via the Commission website “www.floridabuilding.org” for review and will be effective December 31, 2020.

In addition, as a code resource for education and training on the 7th Edition (2020) FBC, available from the following link the following publications for your review and download:

Links to Code Resources

Proposed Rules to the Engineers Administrative Code 61G15

Be sure to check our website and keep up with proposed rules HERE.

State 404 Assumption – Update

On August 20, FDEP transmitted their application for state assumption of the Federal 404 permitting program to EPA. This starts EPA’s review of the application and a Section 7 consultation with the USFWS.

The application package includes a complete description of Florida’s proposed 404 Program; an analysis by FDEP’s General Counsel that Florida’s Program has adequate authority, it’s statutes and rules are lawfully adopted, and that state law provides for just compensation for takings; copies of Memorandums of Agreement between FDEP and EPA and FDEP and USACOE; and a compilation of all statutes and rules for implementing the program.

The entire application package is available here: State 404 Assumption Application

On September 4 the Notice of the State of Florida’s Request to Assume Administration of a Clean Water Act Section 404 Program was published. Read The Full Letter HERE.

Association of Florida Community Developers, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting - August 21, 2020

A special thank you Kelly Cranford, PE. for representing with Jeff Littlejohn, PE the ACEC-FL Land Development Committee at the AFCD meeting!

Click here for the full meeting agenda.

Updates to the NCEES COVID-19 info page

Updates to the NCEES COVID-19 info page talk about a new regional exam administration on Jan. 26, 2021, for the PE Civil, and early transition to computer-based testing for the PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam. Check this page regularly for updates.
2020 Primary Election Report

The primary elections have come to a close and the unofficial results as reported by the Florida Division of Elections are listed below.

*If you would like specific information on any of these races or candidates, contact shobbs@fleng.org.*

2020 Primary Election Results

Potential Liabilities Facing Threshold Building Inspectors

*Follow this link to learn more.*

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**ACEC member action is requested to highlight urgent industry priorities in legislation to support the nation’s economic recovery.**

Click Here to Contact Your Representative and Senators

ACEC is seeking fiscal relief for state and local governments hard hit by pandemic response actions. This includes immediate funding to state departments of transportation, transit agencies, airports, and water utilities whose revenues have declined precipitously. This funding backstop will preserve critical services and keep projects from being canceled or delayed in 2021.

Other priorities include clarifying the tax treatment of PPP loan proceeds and liability protections for employers that take reasonable efforts to comply with coronavirus standards and regulations.

Congressional leaders are in negotiations with the White House over the next economic relief package, so time is of the essence to make sure these priorities are included.

Click Here to Contact Your Representative and Senators

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**ACEC-FL CCNA Letter Campaign**

ACEC-FL directs an educational letter campaign to educate public entities regarding the Consultant’s Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA). This campaign is driven by ACEC-FL members who anonymously send Request for Proposal (RFP) to headquarters. This method ensures that the government agency does not know which firm filed the complaint. ACEC-FL staff in return corresponds with government officials in an effort to educate them on the CCNA law and encourages them to amend their RFP process. This has been a successful program and we encourage all members to participate.

If you see an RFP that may be violating the CCNA law, please email Samantha
Hobbs. If a member firm or licensed engineer within a member firm knowingly violates CCNA, ACEC-FL believes you may be in violation of Chapter 61G15, rules and regulations.

Get to Know your State Legislators

Chapters are encouraged to hold local meetings with their State Legislators. FES and ACEC-FL members are urged to begin educating and re-establishing relationships in personal meetings. FES has prepared a tool kit to help in this process.

FES / ACEC-FL / ACEC Political Advocacy

As engineers, it is important that we engage in the political process. The rules are made by those who show up and get involved. Without involvement, the rule making process is left to those who may not completely understand or care about the issues of our profession. As such, there would be a risk that not only our profession would be harmed but ultimately the public for whom we serve. In addition to your personal individual activity, there are several ways that we can collectively support this process. Outlined below are four such opportunities. We ask that you take the time to invest in your future and your profession and get involved!

Florida Engineering Political Action Committee (FEPAC) is a political action committee that solicits voluntary contributions from ACEC-FL member firms or individual FES members interested in effective engineering legislation. Funds raised are used to research, select and support the election of state candidates who are supportive of consulting engineers.

Consulting Engineers Legislative Council (CELC) was created to provide targeted pro-engineering legislative candidates with special funding to assist in their efforts to run a successful campaign. CELC members pledge contributions totaling $1,000 annually to pro-engineering state candidates located throughout Florida.
engineering concerns and to initiate or defend against legislation that affects the engineering profession. One FEPAC contribution check is presented to the candidate by an ACEC-FL or FES Representative.

ACEC/PAC checks are made payable directly to the candidate and mailed to CELC. These checks are then presented to the candidate by an ACEC-FL Representative on the contributor’s behalf.

ACEC/PAC is the engineering industry’s primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Supported by engineering professionals from across the country who work for member firms, the sole purpose of ACEC/PAC is to elect candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who support policies and legislation favorable to the engineering industry.

ACEC/PAC is overseen by a committee of PAC Champions made up of engineering firm executives from all the ACEC member organizations and is regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). ACEC/PAC is currently the largest federal PAC in the design industry, having grown more than 500% in 10 years. It supports candidates on a bipartisan basis and may give up to $5,000 to a federal candidate per election, and up to $10,000 per candidate for their federal election cycle. In the last election cycle, ACEC/PAC’s winning percentage was 97%.

To learn more about ACEC/PAC, please contact Dave Bender, Vice President, Political Affairs or Jennifer Pugh, Political Director, or log on to visit the ACEC/PAC site here.

Other News from ACEC-FL

2021 FES Directory and ACEC-FL Directory Advertising Opportunities!

FES/ACEC-FL is gearing up for the 2021 FES Directory and the 2021 ACEC-FL Directory, which are distributed to over two thousand Florida-based engineers and firms. We would like to offer you and your firm an opportunity to secure ad space in the 2021 Directories.

Please note that all advertisement pricing includes color, so please make sure to provide all advertisements in COLOR!

Please email Chloe Drexler at cdrexler@fleng.org with any questions.

Download Directory Advertising Contract HERE
The American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL) Annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value.

Gain the exposure you and your firm deserve for innovative engineering projects by entering them into the **2021 Engineering Excellence Awards**!

Click on the links below to apply or learn more:

- [Application/Brochure](#)
- [Important Dates/Deadlines](#)

Questions? Contact Chad Faison at cfaison@fleng.org

The ACEC-FL Water Resources (WRC) Subcommittee had its annual meet and greet with the USACE JAX District in August.

It was one for the record books, as it was a hybrid meeting held socially distanced as well as virtually.

Thank you, Tim Murphy and COL Kelly, for hosting ACEC-FL.

Contact [Samantha Hobbs](mailto:samantha@fleng.org) and get involved today in the ACEC-FL Water Resources Committee.
Thank you to our ACEC-FL Outgoing Board and Committee Chairs!

ACEC-FL is fortunate to have several active, dedicated, and enthusiastic members. It is through the commitment of our members that we are so successful in completing our tasks, and together extending the influence of the engineering profession throughout Florida.

ACEC-FL Thanks You!

Don't Miss Out on Another RFP or RFQ Again!

Sign up for the Florida Register Today to Get Weekly RFPs and RFQs in Your Inbox!

The Florida Register is a weekly email that includes public announcements from every region of Florida.

Our search covers ALL engineering disciplines as well as design-build projects and surveying projects.

The COMPLETE proposal is presented for each RFP so that you have all the information that you will need to get started!

Each ACEC-FL member firm receives two copies of the Florida Register included in it's annual dues.

Email Chloe Drexler for more information

The Florida Engineering Society offers Newsletter Banner Advertising!

Place a banner ad in the FES EngiNews today and reach over 3,300 decision-makers, including professional engineers, project managers, government engineers, and policymakers. Or advertise in the ACEC-FL Update, and maximize your company’s exposure by reaching over 350 engineering firms representing over 19,000 full-time employees!

Choose from a top, middle, or bottom-page banner ad, and the number of months to best fit your needs and budget. Click the button to explore the different banner advertising options.

Secure Your Banner Ad Spot Today!

Call for Volunteers who Focus on Whole-Building Engineering Design

Our Structural Engineering Committee is currently being re-aligned to focus on whole-building engineering design as the Vertical Support Committee. We are currently soliciting committee members from all firms that practice structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and other engineering specifically related to buildings.
In addition to the issues that affect all Florida engineering companies that ACEC-FL monitors, we expect that the Vertical Support committee with specific focus on issues surrounding the Florida Building Code, local Florida permitting agencies, and interface with other building specific trade organizations such as the AIA and AGC. Typically, this committee meets by phone once a quarter, and meetings usually don’t last more than an hour.

If you or a member of your firm is interested in joining this committee, please contact shobbs@fleng.org.

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Call for Action - Support of M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance)

About Connecting Florida

Connecting Florida is a coalition focused on infrastructure needs for Florida’s future, which includes connecting rural communities to the world commerce and our world-class destinations to tourists, providing efficient interstate and intrastate commerce and safe evacuation routes, while protecting and enhancing our precious natural resources.

Connecting Florida supports the creation of multi-use corridors of regional economic significance and the mission to prioritize critical infrastructure enhancements and other connectivity services for the benefit of the State of Florida and all Floridians.

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Click here to read the July Quarterly Connection 2020 edition of FBPE’s newsletter.

Hires, Promotions, Awards, & Other Firm Member News

Michael Baker International Welcomes Kyle Harper, P.E., to the Tampa, Fla., office!

Mr. Harper joined our Florida team as Associate Vice President/Surface Transportation Leader. In this role, he will facilitate the ongoing growth of Michael Baker’s Transportation Practice. As a trusted partner to clients and colleagues alike, Kyle will provide direction on major transportation projects and pursuits as well as ensure these projects are executed to the highest level of efficiency and technical expertise.

Prior to joining Michael Baker, Kyle served as Transportation Design Manager – South at EXP, where he served as Operations and Practice Leader for Design covering the State of Florida. He has also served in various roles at engineering and design firms, including Parsons Corporation, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. and Stanley Consultants.

Throughout his career, Kyle has served as a senior project manager on numerous transportation and infrastructure projects. His varied project experience includes airports, infrastructure, transportation and land development in the United States and Middle East with construction values ranging well into the hundreds of millions. He has two decades of project management experience that includes PD&E, highway, right of way, water, sewer, drainage, and land development projects. He has served FDOT, Turnpike and various other clients in his career. Internationally, he has managed massive multidisciplinary infrastructure projects in the Middle East. Kyle’s project experience includes sole-sourced, traditional design-bid-build, and design-build procurement...
Kyle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

SynTerra’s Taylor says business-minded Precourt is ideally suited to lead the science and engineering firm

We are excited to announce that Steve Precourt — an accomplished Professional Engineer, business executive, and former Florida lawmaker — is SynTerra’s third president in 27 years. Steve succeeds Professional Geologist Mark Taylor, who served as SynTerra’s president since 2006.

View Full Press Release Here

ACEC National Report

ACEC’S 2020 Virtual Fall Conference Website and Registration are Open!

ACEC is thrilled to deliver a dynamic event experience that will showcase all of the features and highlights of our in-person Fall Conference.

Click Here for Registration Details

ACEC/PAC Summer and Fall Sweepstakes!

Click on the image below to download the submission form for your chance to win big!
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Legislative Town Hall Virtual Meeting with Rep. Jason Fischer</td>
<td>11:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More details coming soon*</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ACEC Florida Members’ Benefits &amp; Resources, The Trusts Are Here to Help</td>
<td>12:00PM - 1:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ACEC-FL Transportation Committee Meeting</td>
<td>9:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Florida Stormwater Regulations Update</td>
<td>11:00AM</td>
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For full details on upcoming FES / ACEC-FL events, please see our calendar of events:

[Calendar of Events](#)

If you are interested in having an item published in the ACEC-FL Update, please email ACECFL@fleng.org

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Florida Engineering Society (FES)  
American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL)  
P: 850-224-7121  
F: 850-222-4349  
ACECFL@fleng.org or FES@fleng.org  
www.fleng.org

Stay informed about all FES and ACEC-FL related news by following us on: