

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

of Indiana

# ACEC Indiana Short List

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## ACEC Indiana Legislative Update 2006 Legislative Session Has Convened – “Short” Session Faces Big Issues

### Upcoming Events

January 25, 2006

*Executive Branch  
Lobbying  
Registration Rules*

Hilton - Downtown  
11:30 Registration  
12:00 Lunch

January 31, 2006

*Governor  
Mitch Daniels*

*will join  
ACEC Indiana  
to discuss  
Major Moves,  
Transportation and  
other major  
legislative Initiatives.*

Hilton - Downtown  
11:15 Registration  
11:45 Lunch

*For more information  
and to register visit the  
ACEC Indiana Website  
www.acecindiana.org*

The 2006 General Assembly is expected to face some big issues in a short time. The House of Representatives convened on January 4<sup>th</sup> and the Senate convened on January 9<sup>th</sup>. By law, the legislative session must conclude by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Since it is a “short” session, a lot of work must be compressed to meet the deadline for the last day of hearings in the “chamber of origin” which is January 25, or about 3 weeks! After that, “surviving” bills may be advanced to the other chamber.

This can be good news or bad, depending on the issue. On the good side, since the legislature will be taking up the big issues of long-term transportation funding and property tax relief, it will leave less time for their consideration of a lot of other concerns where there are conflicting views, hopefully including Registration of Interior Designers and Plan Stamping, geologists who want to do engineering work, and “cookie cutter” plans for schools and municipal buildings. On the bad side, funding for enforcement of licenses by the PE Board may be difficult to accomplish with such a short time.

We only have one bill number so far, but you can still contact your legislators and give your views on the proposed bills as we know them. Here is a preview of the bill proposals we expect to focus on and what we know about them so far:

**“Major Moves” Transportation Plan – Support**  
Sponsor: Rep. Randy Borrer (R-Ft. Wayne). This is the Admini-

stration’s proposal to establish a 10-year transportation funding and construction plan through the use of Public-Private Partnerships (P3’s).

Why Does ACEC Indiana Support Major Moves?

- INDOT has identified \$2.8 billion in transportation projects over the next 10 years that require additional funding in order to be built. The Major Moves legislation will provide this additional funding.
- Under the plan, INDOT’s construction budget will steadily grow each year from \$789 million in FY 2006 to \$1.336 billion in FY 2015, an average of \$1.064 billion annually over the next 10 years. *Without Major Moves, INDOT’s construction budget will stagnate and average only \$778 million annually during that period.*
- The Administration has said that funding generated by Major Moves will be dedicated to transportation improvements.
- INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp has said that aside from the use of public private partnerships (P3’s) on the Indiana Toll Road, new I-69 and a few other possible corridors, other new construction projects throughout the state (or about \$2.1 billion of the \$2.8 billion in un-funded projects) will be delivered “status quo,” or as INDOT currently delivers projects.
- Major Moves means major increases in transportation work and jobs throughout

the State over the next decade, which means major economic growth for Indiana.

Committing to “Buy Indiana”: ACEC Indiana believes that state government should utilize Indiana companies to work on INDOT’s projects whenever and wherever possible, including the professional services of engineering firms. Stop the “Brain Drain” from Indiana.

Funding for Local Roads: Local roads make up an important part of Indiana’s transportation system and are essential for economic development. ACEC Indiana believes that long term, adequate and stable funding for transportation vital.

**P.E. license investigation/enforcement fees – Support**

**HB 1063 Registration of Interior Designers with the Secretary of State and Plan Stamping – Oppose**

Sponsor is Rep. Phil Hinkle (R-Indpls.) again and has been assigned to House Committee on Employment and Labor, which is chaired by Rep. Jerry Torr (R-Carmel.)

**It is critical that you contact your legislator about these issues.**

**To get address/email and telephone information on your legislator, go to <http://www.in.gov/legislative/legislators>**

**To view legislation, go to <http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>**

 *Indiana*

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