

ACEC Indiana President Abe Swidan outlines goals for 2009-2010

Thank you for electing me to serve as ACEC Indiana President. During the past five years I had the pleasure of serving with several board members from our industry with impressive experience and background as well as excellent leadership qualities, which is a testament to ACEC Indiana's member firms. I would assert that the ACEC Indiana membership leadership, quality of work, diversity exposure and experience rivals that of any other state in the country. This is proven annually at the Engineering Excellence Awards banquet, where several impressive projects are recognized. And the ultimate proof of outstanding leadership and achievement was the flawless delivery of Major Moves. I am confident that ACEC Indiana staff, the executive committee and the board of directors will continue to promote and protect the interests of ACEC Indiana member firms.

Legislative Agenda for 2010

Indiana's future success will depend on adequate and stable funding sources for highways, local roads and bridges and water/wastewater systems. ACEC Indiana will urge the General Assembly to find solutions for long-term funding.

Thanks to Major Moves, INDOT has enjoyed a steady source of construction funds for the past few years. The construction budget averaged about \$1.2 billion; however, this number will drop to pre-Major Moves dollars in 2011. The impact to ACEC Indiana member firms will be experienced this year. As we all know, the 18-month project list has been significantly reduced. ACEC Indiana, along with our partners at BIC, will work to promote a long-term federal funding bill, that would improve the donor dollars that Indiana receives and make sure we are not



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penalized for privatizing toll roads.

Indiana's water and wastewater infrastructure needs, based on a report commissioned for the state in 2003, indicate a cost higher than \$1 billion per year for the next 20 year for existing service or regulatory standards. This does not include any new requirements with all 92 counties in need of water/sewer improvements. Economic development is impeded by the magnitude of Indiana's CSO issues. Soon, there will be a sewer gap between Indiana communities and those in surrounding states if a funding program is not developed to offset the higher compliance costs. There is some short-term relief provided from the stimulus package, however, there is still a huge funding gap. ACEC Indiana will continue to advocate for long-term adequate funding with state legislators.

Indiana needs at least \$5 billion in the short-term to upgrade local roads, streets and bridges. The state would also require \$850 million per year for long-term sustained funding. 55 percent of the crashes in rural areas and 81 percent of the crashes in urban areas occur on locally-maintained routes. 79 percent of Indiana's deficient bridges are found on county roads. More than 3,100 local bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. ACEC will lead the discussion for long-term local funding of

these projects.

ACEC Indiana PAC and National PAC support

I would strongly encourage all of our members to contribute to both PACs*. Engaging Indiana state legislators and members of Congress is critical to ACEC's efforts in promoting long-term funding for infrastructure and insuring sound legislation.

This will be a busy and productive year; I look forward to working with all of you to tackle these critical issues.

Abe Swidan, P.E.

* Members have the opportunity to contribute to the state PAC in the membership dues invoice. Board members contact members to contribute to the National PAC. You can also contribute here: http://www.acecindiana.org/content/PDF/2008-2009/PAC_Contribution_Form.

Upcoming ACEC Indiana events

Diversity Networking Fair
Aug. 20 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Marriott Indianapolis East
\$120/ exhibitor
\$60/ attendee

Environmental Business Conference
Sept. 16 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Marriott Indianapolis East
\$125/ member
\$200/ nonmember

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