

## Taxes, Transportation Funding & Campaign Contributions Discussed at Legislative Luncheon

Two prominent members of the Indiana General Assembly spoke to over 75 ACEC Indiana members about key issues of this legislative session and their impact on the consulting engineering community at the Annual Legislative luncheon in Indianapolis.

State Senator Brant Hershman (R-Monticello), chairman of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, applauded ACEC Indiana member firms for their role on the “front line of the economy” with design for important infrastructure, but criticized the federal stimulus program for its slight attention to meaningful public works design.

On the state budget, Hershman said that the “easy cuts had been made” and the now the state had reached the “tough times which drive innovation and cooperation.”

On the bright side, Hershman asserted that Indiana was well-poised for inevitable recovery with the “best business-tax climate in the Midwest.” Towards that goal, he was handling legislation that promoted economic development that would nudge government to “be more nimble, think differently like consulting engineers do” but would not consider a sales tax on professional services since it has been a “disaster” when tried in other states and caused economic disruption.

State Representative Ed DeLaney (D-Indianapolis), who serves on the House Ways & Means Committee and the Elections



**Rep. Ed DeLaney**



**Sen. Brandt Hershman**

Photos courtesy of Jim Reid, *IndianaPublicWorks News*

& Apportionment Committee, has been a champion of local government reform, authoring a bill making headway this session to eliminate township trustees.

One of Indiana’s economic advantages according to DeLaney was its geographic location, which was why “roads are important, along with rail for freight and people” and other forms of transportation including busses, rails-to-trails projects like the Monon Trail, and sidewalks, for a holistic solution.

On the elections front, DeLaney believed that industry groups like engineering had been “hit too hard” in the past for large campaign contributions, and was now seeking ways to foster smaller contributions by more people to engage them in the process.

**The luncheon was sponsored by Gallagher Benefit Services. A partner with ACEC Life Health Trust, Gallagher provides ACEC Indiana members with discounted rates for health insurance.**

## Upcoming ACEC Indiana Events

**Feb. 19-26**

Indiana Construction Conference  
Naples, Florida

**Feb. 23-25**

INDOT PE/PS Workshop  
Crowne Plaza at the airport  
*\*Registration closed\**

**March 18-19**

Engineering Leadership  
Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis

**March 20**

Engineering Excellence Awards  
Banquet

Marriott Indianapolis North  
6-9 p.m.

*\*Invitations online only, click here to RSVP\**

Remember to mail your **personal** contributions for the 2010 National PAC to ACEC Indiana  
55 Monument Circle, Ste. 819  
Indianapolis, IN 46204.

*\*Checks can be made out to ACEC PAC.*

Thanks for your support!



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