

May 2021 | Issue 11



# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of North Carolina

The latest news & upcoming events  
for engineering excellence in  
North Carolina

## Upcoming Events:

### May

**5.18.2021 - 5.19.2021**

Site Development &  
Highway Access  
Concepts- Practitioner  
Level

[Read More](#)

**5.24.2021**

Transportation  
Committee Meeting

[Read More](#)

**5.25.2021**

Business Practices  
Committee Meeting

[Read More](#)

**5.26.2021**

Bridge Workshop

[Read More](#)

### June

**6.9.2021**

B&I Committee Meeting

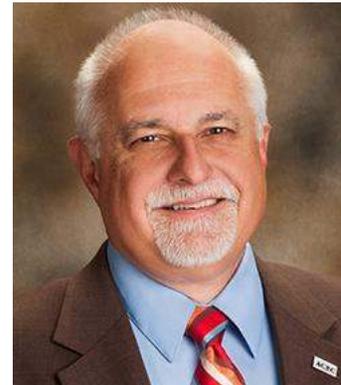
[Read More](#)

**6.16.2021**

Legislative Committee  
Meeting

## A message from Executive Director James Smith

Welcome to May! These past few months have seen our state and our nation continue to open up with more than half of the eligible population across North Carolina receiving their vaccine. As restrictions lift, ACEC/NC will continue to offer more in-person event options, but with a continued eye towards safety. Over the coming months, our event calendar will again begin to fill up, and we hope to see many of you through your masks soon.



Click [here](#) to read this month's letter.



## A Viable Transportation Funding Program for the 21st Century

Rapid change in all aspects of modern life will have a catastrophic effect on the current system of funding for transportation in the United States. Decisions are being made by private industry that will require fundamental revision of North Carolina's century-old system of paying for our ability to move people and freight in our state.

[Read More](#)

**06.21.2021**  
ECNC Education and  
Advocacy  
Fundraising Event  
Pinehurst  
[Details](#)

**06.28.2021**  
ACEC/ NC Legislative  
Golf Tournament  
Prestonwood CC  
Cary  
[Details](#)

**07.29.2021 - 7.31.2021**  
Summer Conference  
Wrightsville Beach  
[Details](#)

**We're advocating  
for the N.C.  
engineering  
industry!**

To see the most recent  
legislative updates that  
could impact you and  
your firm [click here](#).



The engineering industry in North Carolina has experienced significant impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here](#) to view our state resource page that includes the

The state's economic health relies on an efficient, connected, and reliable transportation network. Having served us well for a century the current "user pays" model of funding through the motor fuels tax – more than 60% of revenue - requires replacement with a more diversified system.

ACEC/NC recommends immediate and meaningful action to prevent further decline. Establish a target date of 2025 to begin a 5-year phased implementation of a new long-term sustainable revenue system to substantially replace the motor fuels tax.

Check out the complete [report](#) from our Long-term Sustainable Funding Task Force.

**And, ACEC/NC was awarded a Minute Man Grant from ACEC to support our efforts advocating for legislation to secure critical long-term transportation infrastructure funding!**



**Join us at  
Wrightsville Beach  
in July**

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the ACEC/NC Annual Summer Conference on Wrightsville Beach, July 29-31!

This event will be held in person, and we are looking forward to safely gathering again. Please be assured that all aspects of the conference will be in keeping with CDC guidelines and NC Executive Orders that are in place on July 29th.

**[REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

Our agenda is filling up with some great sessions that you won't want to miss. [Check it out.](#)

**Hit the links with  
ACEC/NC**

Looking for an opportunity to build your relationship with a client or a colleague or to reward your staff for a job well done? Well the ACEC/NC Legislative Golf Tournament is for you!



Join us on Monday, June 28 at the beautiful Prestonwood Golf Course in Cary, NC. for the perfect combination of

most recent information and updates.

**Click here** to view the National resource page that includes the most recent information and updates.

camaraderie, relaxation, recreation, and laid-back golf.

Registration is **open**. And **sponsorships** still remain.

This event one of the key fundraising events for the ACEC/PAC. ACEC/NC members have had tremendous success in meeting and exceeding the PAC goal in recent years so we need your help to hit that mark again this year!



## Business Practices Committee introduces new Subcommittees

### Professional Development Subcommittee

Do you want your firm to get better at developing your staff? Are you interested in making your firm's already good professional development even more meaningful, even more interesting, and applicable to all employees regardless of experience or expertise?

If you answered yes to any of these, you should consider joining the Professional Development Subcommittee, regardless of your position or responsibility in your firm. Our purpose is straightforward and simple: *Help firms provide training that promotes employee growth and development.*

### Human Resources Subcommittee

Attention, HR Professionals! Are you looking for a way to connect with other HR professionals? If so, the HR Subcommittee would be a great fit for you. This newly formed group is planning to meet every two to three months to connect and share ideas about onboarding, integration, retention, DE&I, and more.

The next step is yours... click **here** by **May 21, 2021**, to sign-up.

## #TakeYourShot

As of April 7, every North Carolinian is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. To find



locations in your area, check out the NC DHHS' My Spot vaccine appointment [tracker](#).

## ACEC & Coalition Partners Urge Congress to Create Nationwide VMT Implementation Program



With the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee beginning work on reauthorizing surface transportation programs, ACEC and its coalition partners are calling for the creation of a comprehensive national vehicle miles traveled (VMT) implementation program. [Click here](#) for full article.

## Industry Expansion Solutions leads local businesses to success

From the mountains to the coast, NC State's Industry Expansion Solutions (IES) helps North Carolina businesses face challenges head-on, offering deep, engineering-based expertise that sparks success. By training workers and guiding processes like management standards, additive manufacturing services, cybersecurity, and more, IES helps these local businesses thrive. [Click here](#) for full article.

**NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING**

## Featured Member Spotlight

Three Oaks Engineering offers clients planning and engineering services with sustainability in mind. Three Oaks is a woman-owned firm headquartered in Durham with other locations in Raleigh and Cayce, South Carolina.

Founded in January 2014, the firm provides services within four major categories: environmental, including stream and wetland delineation & endangered species surveys; transportation & traffic engineering; environmental permitting & compliance; and soil testing (including septic percolation surveys).

Three Oaks staff members have National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation experience on projects across the Southeast, including improvements to US 70 in Craven County and the I-526 Lowcountry Corridor West project in Charleston, SC. Their public engagement services include Spanish translation.



The Three Oaks Engineering team holds several NCDOT limited-service contracts, including Comprehensive Environmental Analysis Unit, Statewide Planning and Design, Transportation Mobility and Safety Division, and General Transportation Planning Division.

In 2020, the firm of 35 team members was recognized as Employer of the Year by the North Carolina Triangle Chapter of WTS International. In 2019, they were also awarded the Minority Enterprise Development Outstanding Achievement Award in Professional Services by the City of Durham.

The firm credits its success to its foundational core values – sustainability, work-life balance, and longevity. For more information and a complete list of their services and accreditations, check out their website <https://threeoaksengineering.com/> and follow their social media on all platforms.

## ACEC/NC PAC Hits the Target

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the ACEC/NC PAC Sporting Clay Fundraiser and the staff at Drake's Landing for a safe environment. We raised \$980 for the ACEC/NC State PAC to support candidates that share the goals and ideals of enhancing the business of engineering.

Congratulations to Read Plott with GeoScience & Technology who came in 1st place and **Charles Wilkins** with Kleinfelder who came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Claire Brinkley** with WSP won the raffle prize of gift certificate to Anderson Creek!

Thanks also to all of our sponsors! We couldn't have done it without you!



## Join ECNC in Pinehurst

The Engineering Companies for North Carolina (ECNC) Board of Governors cordially invites you to participate in our Annual Education and Advocacy event in Pinehurst on Monday, June 21, 2021. This exciting event will begin with golf in the morning, a sponsors-only reception with North Carolina Speaker of the House Rep. Tim Moore, and a bourbon-paired four-course dinner at the Carolina Inn for registered dinner attendees.



Our formal education program will review previous legislative successes, illuminate 2020 financial contributions, and outline ECNC's strategy for supporting transportation, utilities, broadband, and vertical construction infrastructure investment initiatives during the 2021 Legislative Session.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Don't delay! The deadline to reserve a room is **May 22nd**.

[Click here to read more ACEC/NC & member news!](#)



ACEC/NC is the premier organization that represents the business interests of the engineering industry in our state. ACEC/NC's mission is to promote the business interests of engineering companies by providing legislative advocacy and business services.

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