

# THE ADVOCATE



## Message from the Executive Director

Happy October!

As the leaves change and the temperatures get cooler, we can reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to great events for the rest of the year.

On the legislative front, as you have likely heard, after many months of debate, legislators on Jones Street finally passed their biennial budget in late September. The bill's 600+ pages included some key ACEC/NC

## ACEC/NC Upcoming Events

**Sunday, October 15th -  
Wednesday, October 18th**  
**ACEC National Fall  
Conference in Austin, TX**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Tuesday, October 24th**  
**Business Practices  
Committee Meeting**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Wednesday, October 25th**  
**Bridge Workshop - Lake  
Pontchartrain Causeway  
Safety Bay Project**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Thursday, October 26th**  
**ACEC/NC Junior Board:  
Lunch N' Learn on Building**

priorities, including two that have received support from Minuteman funds. Legislators appropriated significant funds to support our goal of increasing infrastructure funding, including funding for multiple priorities outlined by the NC 10 Commission and many of the House funding priorities we have discussed previously. Legislators also approved more than \$25 million to support the Great Trails Initiative over the coming years, a decision we are thrilled about!

Staying with our advocacy focus but moving north to Washington, D.C., we had a great turnout at the September reception at the ACEC townhouse on Capitol Hill. Twenty-five members joined us on the bus ride up, and we had a chance to visit with almost every North Carolina Congressional delegation member while we were there. One of the key priorities we continued to advocate for was the Research & Development tax credit issues we have been working to address for multiple sessions.

Coming up in the next few days and weeks are some of ACEC/NC's seminal events. From our Engineering Excellence Awards to the Joint Transportation Conference and holiday receptions, the remainder of the year is packed with great events. And I hope to see many of you at them!

Thank you for your membership, and let's keep the momentum going to wrap up 2023 strong!

Jim Smith, P.E.  
Executive Director  
ACEC/NC

**a Habit of Strategic Thinking**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Tuesday, October 31st**  
**FAR Training - Key Issues in**  
**A/E Firm Overhead Rates**  
**2023**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Wednesday, November 8th**  
**Building & Infrastructure**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Monday, November 13th**  
**Transportation Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Tuesday, November 14th**  
**Go/No-Go Process: Risk**  
**Analysis of Client, Project,**  
**Team**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Tuesday, November 28th**  
**Business Practices**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**[Click Here](#)**

**Thursday, November 30th**  
**Environmental & Energy**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**[Click Here](#)**

## **ACEC/NC & NCDOT Joint Transportation Conference!**

**Dates: Thursday November 16 through Friday November 17**

**Thursday:**

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Friday:**

7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Location:**

Raleigh Convention Center  
500 S. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601



[REGISTER HERE](#)

## **North Carolina Budget Update**

After many months of debate and negotiation, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the 2023 Appropriations Act. Governor Roy Cooper allowed the \$30 billion budget to become law without his signature. The budget became effective on October 3rd.

The advocacy team of ACEC/NC led by David Ferrell of Maynard Nexsen reviewed the full budget to focus on the practice areas critical to ACEC/NC member firms. Below is a summary:

- Hybrid vehicles - a new \$90-a-year fee for plug-in hybrid vehicles
- EV's - raises the registration fee from \$140 to \$180 per year (\$40 per year increase)
- Ride-share fee enacts a new "transportation commerce tax" of 1.5% on exclusive ride-share services (Uber, Lyft) and a 1% tax for shared-ride service.
- \$4M nonrecurring for 2023 for southern NC regional economic development projects
- \$55M in recurring funds for 2023 and 2024 for the Bridge Program
- \$13.7M in recurring funds from 2023 and 2024 for the Bridge Preservation Program
- \$100M in nonrecurring funds in 2023 - allocation of receipts from transportation reserve to the contingency fund
- Approximately \$473M in 2023 and \$610M in 2024 to adjust the STIP based on revenue forecasts and transfers from the Highway Fund
- \$10M for 2023 and \$97.8M for 2024 for mega-site readiness across North Carolina
- Great Trails State Fund receives \$12.5M for 2023 and \$12.5M for 2024 (an ACEC/NC priority)
- Approximately \$2B in water and wastewater infrastructure spending - local government and/or projects receiving funding are listed on pages 363 to 372 in the special provisions section

Also, we understand the NCDOT agency bill is not moving forward this session. NCDOT is asking legislators to put a few items out of the bill and run them separately, but at this point it is not clear whether any of the provisions will be enacted this session.

[FULL BUDGET HERE](#)

## Message from the Junior Board



The ACEC/NC Junior Board of Directors is excited to enter its second year with the addition of six new Junior Board members and a new Executive Committee. We continue to be overwhelmed by the excitement, support, and interest we have received from ACEC/NC member firms by promoting the advancement of developing professionals and industry advocacy. With an expanded Junior Board, we are excited to share our initiatives for 2023-2024:

- Continuing informative socials and expanding to locations across the state. We had over 100 attendees at the socials held on October 5<sup>th</sup> to publicize ACEC/NC committee involvement in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Winston-Salem.
- Creating accessible experiences for developing professionals to contribute and learn about ACEC's PACs.
- Hosting technical and soft-skill learning opportunities to support the growth of developing professionals through their transition to leaders in our industry. Our first event will be held on October 26 and **registration is live**.
- Expanding developing professionals' networks through the creation of a peer-to-peer connect program.

This summer, we launched the Junior Board partners program. Thus far, eighteen member firms and counting have directly supported the Junior Board by sponsoring our programming for the upcoming year.

Thank you to each member firm who has elected to be a sponsor and advance the growth of ACEC/NC's developing professionals.



Katharine Mather, AICP  
2023-2024 ACEC/NC Junior Board Chair

Trey Hendrick, PE  
2023-2024 ACEC/NC Junior Board Vice-Chair

## Welcome to our new members!

**Anderson UnderBridge**  
**Aulick Engineering, LLC**  
**Boyle Consulting Engineers LLC**  
**Carolina Transportation Engineers & Associates PC**  
**FMI**  
**Goins Switzer Engineers & Consultants**  
**Holt Consulting Company, LLC**

## Have you shared our newsletter?

Share this newsletter with other businesses and friends and encourage them to join!

**Thank you!**

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