



# ACEC *Minnesota*

## Engineering, Go Figure

Hennepin Avenue Central Business  
District Reconstruction by



**ALLIANT**

See next page for project details

## 2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2025





### INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Member Project: Hennepin Ave by Alliant Engineering
- Member Spotlight: Hallberg Engineering
- Submit your MTCE Presentation
- Legislative Session Recap
- News From ACEC National: Budget Reconciliation Bill
- Annual Meeting & Vendor Showcase
- 2025-26 Board Members
- Young Professionals Committee
- National EEA Project Recognition
- ACEC/MN EEA Gala - Save the Date!
- EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament
- EEFA Softball Tournament
- Member News
- 2025 Photo Contest

**Cover Project: Hennepin Avenue Central Business District Reconstruction by Alliant Engineering**

**Photographer:** Beth Winter, Alliant Engineering

Hennepin Avenue is the vibrant heart of Downtown Minneapolis. Home to four theatres within a three-block stretch and just steps from the arenas of the Minnesota Twins, Lynx, and Timberwolves, it stands as a cultural and entertainment cornerstone of the city that welcomes millions of theatergoers, fans, and pedestrians each year.

Alliant and Kimley-Horn partnered to lead the preliminary and final design efforts for the Hennepin Avenue Central Business District Reconstruction Project—a transformative 1.2 mile roadway reconstruction spanning from Washington Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The preliminary engineering effort developed a wide range of typical sections and completed a comprehensive alternatives analysis. Concept layouts that improved the pedestrian environment, made provisions for a protected bicycle facility, and incorporated transit enhancements while maintaining motor vehicle operations were prepared for the stakeholder engagement process. More than 150 stakeholder meetings were held with a diverse group of property owners, agency representatives, and interested residents to build consensus on a design solution. The revitalization of Hennepin Avenue preserves its historic charm while fostering a pedestrian-friendly environment, ensuring it remains an inviting destination for years to come.



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# MTCE

MARCH 18-20 2026

## MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE & EXPO

We Want Your Presentation at MTC&E 2026!  
**[Click here to submit yours - submissions due by October 1st.](#)**

Ready to sign up for your booth for next year?  
Sales Open Soon, watch [MTCExpo.com](http://MTCExpo.com) for updates

## 2025 Legislative Session Recap

After failing to pass a two-year state budget during the regular session, the Minnesota Legislature convened on June 9, 2025, for a one-day special session to finalize the state's \$66 billion biennial budget. Lawmakers acted quickly to pass 15 budget and policy bills after several weeks of intense negotiations.

In addition to budget bills, the legislature also passed a significant general fund and cash bonding package that directs investments toward critical infrastructure projects, including improvements for roads, bridges, drinking water systems, and public buildings. Legislation strengthening oversight of data centers to address water consumption and climate impacts was passed, along with extended unemployment benefits for more than 600 miners on the Iron Range.

Additional highlights included a K-12 Education package that strengthened the state's continued push toward the science of reading, an omnibus health and human services bill that improved reimbursement rates for independent pharmacies and stabilized hospital funding, a jobs bill with important workforce program investments, and new electric vehicle charges.

Despite broad agreements, several high-profile proposals failed to gain traction during the special session. Notably, a controversial effort to reduce the metro counties' share of dedicated transportation sales tax revenue from 17% to 8.5% was withdrawn after intense pushback from local government leaders. Proposals to amend state sick-leave rules, exempting small businesses and farms, and potential revisions to Minnesota's non-compete laws also did not move forward due to tight timelines and strong disagreements among lawmakers.

After much debate, the special session ultimately concluded successfully in the early morning hours, clearing all bills for Governor Walz's expected signature. The Minnesota Legislature is next scheduled to reconvene February 17, 2026.

[Looking for details on specific bills?](#)

[Take a look at the full 77 page report from our Lobbying Team at Poul Haas](#)

### In Memoriam - Melissa & Mark Hortman

Shortly following the Special Session in the early hours of Saturday, June 14th, tragedy struck the Minnesota Legislature when a gunman killed Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark. Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette were also wounded in the attacks. The suspect was fortunately apprehended Sunday, June 16th.

In a statement on Wednesday, June 18th, ACEC/MN reflected on Melissa's distinguished legislative tenure and her incredible contributions to our state:

"ACEC/MN worked closely with Representative Hortman during her two-decade tenure in the House – she was a tireless consensus builder. She authored and helped pass significant pieces of legislation that have greatly improved the engineering industry and the projects engineers design for citizens, governments, and businesses. This is just one example of the countless ways she improved the lives of all Minnesotans during her time at the Capitol.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Hortman children, family, friends, and community in the face of this tragedy. We also wish Senator Hoffman and his wife a swift and full recovery."





# News from ACEC National

## Budget Reconciliation Bill (OBBB) Summary

The House and Senate have passed the budget reconciliation bill – commonly referred to as the One Big Beautiful Bill – and sent it to President Trump for his signature. The centerpiece of the legislation is the permanent extension of key provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that were scheduled to expire at the end of 2025, as well as reinstating full deductibility of R&D expenses and other business provisions. The business tax portion of the bill fully addresses ACEC's priorities and represents a major win for the engineering industry.

There are some challenges in the bill and ACEC will work with stakeholder and congressional allies to explore options to revisit and restore policies that support renewable energy projects and other issues that touch our industry.

### ACEC Wins:

- R&D deductibility is permanently restored starting in 2025. In addition, firms with less than \$31 million in gross receipts (this is the IRC Section 448(c) cash accounting threshold) are eligible for retroactive relief for 2022-2024. Firms with more than \$31 million in gross receipts can elect to speed up unused deductions from 2022-2024.
- Interest deductibility and full expensing for certain capital investments are also permanently restored.
- The Section 199A passthrough deduction is permanently extended at 20%; the bill dropped language that would have limited how much state and local taxes passthrough businesses could deduct.
- The corporate tax rate is retained at 21%.
- The SALT cap is increased from \$10,000 to \$40,000 (with annual adjustments) through 2029. The phaseout threshold for the increased SALT cap begins at incomes over \$500,000.
- The Section 127 provision that allows employers to assist employees with educational expenses and student loan repayment is permanently extended, and the \$5,250 limit is indexed for inflation going forward.

### Improved through the Legislative Process:

- The bill drops a proposed excise tax on wind and solar projects. It also allows projects that begin construction within one year of the bill's enactment to receive the full production tax credit. The initial version of the bill would have restricted the tax credit for projects placed in service by the end of 2027.
- Tax incentives for advanced nuclear, geothermal, and hydropower technologies are preserved through 2032.
- The tax incentive for clean hydrogen projects that commence construction by January 1, 2028, was reinstated after a previous version would have eliminated the credit by the end of 2025.
- The carbon capture tax credit remains available for projects that begin construction within one year of the bill's enactment. After that one-year window, credits phase down until 2032. Earlier versions had the tax credit phased out by 2029.
- Provides more clarity on Foreign Entity of Concerns restrictions for supply chains.

### Challenges:

- Rescinds unobligated funding from the FHWA Low Carbon Transportation Materials grant program.
- Rescinds unobligated funding from the FHWA Neighborhood Access and Equity grant program.
- Drops the new user fees for EVs and hybrid vehicles for additional revenue into the Highway Trust Fund that had been approved by the House. House T&I Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) may seek to reintroduce this provision as part of the next surface transportation reauthorization bill.
- Rescinds all unobligated IRA funds for EPA programs.
- The Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction is eliminated for property where construction commences after June 30, 2026.

*Summary courtesy of Katherine Mottley, Vice President of Tax and Workforce Policy, ACEC*

## Welcoming a New Chair & Celebrating 2024-25 Accomplishments at the Annual Meeting

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, ACEC Minnesota members gathered at the Minneapolis Event Center for the 2025 Annual Meeting & Vendor Showcase. Outgoing Board Chair Brett Morse, TKDA, reflected on the year's achievements, including a new Strategic Plan, expanded outreach to Greater Minnesota, close collaboration with ACEC National and robust Federal advocacy. New 2025-26 Board members were also introduced for attendees.



Incoming Board Chair Bill Forsmark, Barr Engineering Co., looked forward to continuing growth for ACEC/MN and aligning efforts to the new strategic pillars of Advocacy, Leadership Development and Business Resources ([see the Strategic Plan here](#)).

ACEC/MN CEO Jonathan Curry shared the "State of the Association" with members, highlighting strong growth among affiliate members, a revamped ACEC/MN website and new participation opportunities at Forums.

New for this year's event was the **Vendor Showcase**, which featured 16 vendors and partners who work with ACEC/MN member firms, including:





## 2024-25 Annual Meeting Awards:

In addition to highlighting accomplishments, looking ahead and connecting with vendors, recognition Awards were also given out at the Annual Meeting.

### **Emerging Leader Award:**

The 2025 recipient was **Shan Morgen, Isthmus Engineering**. Shan has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Young Professionals Committee and has volunteered at many ACEC & EEFA events, including the Scholarship Golf Tournament and the EEA Gala. He is a Project Engineer with Isthmus Engineering, recently obtained his PE license and earned his undergraduate degrees in physics and civil engineering at UW La Crosse and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. [See more at this link.](#)



### **President's Award:**

Four individuals were selected to receive this award: **Jeff Gebhard, Braun Intertec; Jon Horn, Kimley-Horn (ret.); Jason Meyer, WSP; and Sirish Samba, Sambatek**. They were selected to recognize their contributions as founding Board members of the Engineering Education Foundation of America.

[See more at this link.](#)



### **Firm of the Year Award:**

This year's recipient was **PE Services**, which has taken a major industry leadership role in the past year. Current owner and CEO, Jennifer Hildebrand serves on the ACEC/MN Board and has recruited many new member and affiliate firms to join and become involved in ACEC/MN and has played a founding role in the new Small Business Subcommittee. PE Services also offers technical training and small business support to elevate engineers and create career pathways. [See more at this link.](#)



## 2024-25 Annual Meeting Awards & Sponsors:

Two other ACEC/MN Awards had updates announced at the Annual Meeting:

### **Distinguished Service Award:**

When the Awards Nomination Committee met to discuss this award, several members suggested Holly J. Newman, as a potential nominee. As the group reflected on Holly's enormous contributions to the Minnesota Engineering Industry, the decision was made to rename this award as the the **Holly J. Newman Distinguished Service Award** in her honor. [See more at this link.](#)

Holly was an active volunteer in ACEC/MN for many years, went out of her way to offer support and connections to firms, frequently presented on legal topics, and played a pivotal role in a years-long effort to reform indemnification laws for design professionals.

### **Tom Roche Lifetime Achievement Award:**

This award will be moving from the Annual Meeting to the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, scheduled for February 6, 2026 - Save The Date!

We want your nominations for this award - [please use this link to send those in](#). To learn more about the Tom Roche Award, [see this link](#).

## Thank You To Our Annual Meeting Sponsors!

### **Platinum Sponsor**



### **Social Hour Sponsor**



**BOLTON  
& MENK**

### **Silver Sponsor**

**Mead&Hunt**

### **Bronze Sponsor**

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# ACEC Minnesota

## 2025-26 Board Members



**Chair**  
Bill Forsmark  
Barr Engineering Co.



**Chair-Elect**  
Bob Moore  
SRF Consulting Group



**Treasurer**  
Jason Meyer  
WSP



**Secretary**  
Steven Carleton  
Rani Engineering, LLC



**Past Chair &  
National Director**  
Brett Morse  
TDKA



**Director**  
John Crawford  
KLJ



**Director**  
Keith Farquhar  
Mead & Hunt



**Director:**  
Jennifer Hildebrand  
PE Services



**Director**  
Matt Jensen  
Kimley-Horn



**Director**  
Kyle Johnson  
Bolton & Menk, Inc.



**Director**  
Jason Mangan  
LHB



**Director**  
Eric Nystedt  
Kraus-Anderson Insurance



**Director**  
Mario Ratnaraj  
HNTB Corporation



**Director**  
Matt Ruble  
Braun Intertec



**Young Engineer**  
Emily Jennings  
Short Elliott Hendrickson



**ACEC/MN CEO**  
Jonathan Curry



**Board Alternate**  
Brian Arman  
AET



**Board Alternate**  
Dave Black  
AECOM

## Young Professionals Committee

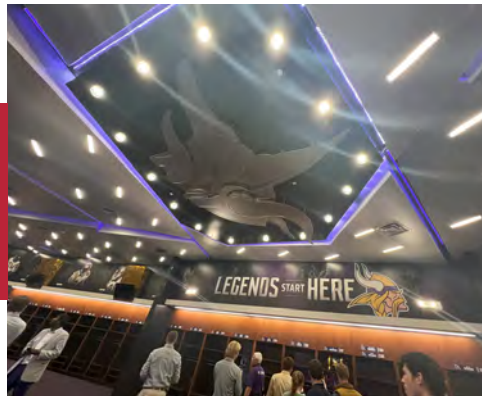
The ACEC/MN Young Professionals Committee offers networking, growth and career advancement opportunities for professionals in the early stages of their career. The YP Committee hosts social events to connect with peers, exciting site tours, opportunities for skills and leadership development, and legislative panels to raise awareness and build advocacy skills.

The Committee held many great monthly events last year and they are hard at work to plan another awesome year of events - to join the Committee email list, please reach out to current Chair RJ McKeever of HNTB at [rmckeever@hntb.com](mailto:rmckeever@hntb.com).

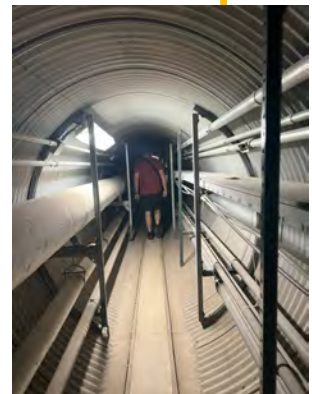
### 2024 Kickoff: Axe Throwing at MN Axe



### U.S. Bank Stadium Tour



### Minneapolis Drinking Water Plant Tour





## Young Professionals Committee

Thank you to our 2024-25 Sponsors!

### Platinum Sponsors



### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



[Click here to join as a sponsor for 2025-26  
and support the Young Professionals](#)



# 2025 ACEC National EEA Gala recognizes projects from Minnesota Firms

The following member projects were recognized on Tuesday, May 20, at the **ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards Gala** in Washington D.C.

## 2025 Honor Award Recipients



### I-35W Underground Stormwater Storage Facility

I-35W is a major artery in Minneapolis, with traffic volume expected to reach more than a quarter of a million vehicles per day in the next decade. For decades, traffic lanes would flood after storms, bringing traffic to a standstill for hours. The project team developed Minnesota's first vertical underground stormwater storage facility (SSF). Composed of six connected, 80-foot-deep chambers with a combined capacity equal to seven Olympic size swimming pools, the cells significantly reduce stormwater flooding along the interstate, keeping traffic moving during storms.



### Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Building

Located on the campus of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Building houses facilities focused on discoveries in neurosciences and cancer research. Inside the Kellen Building, researchers conduct both basic and translational research, with clinical practice and education all under the same roof. Innovative risk-based zoning allows varied hazard levels to cohabitate within the same building, encouraging collaboration and reducing the need for high-cost, hazard-intense laboratory space.



# National Recognition Award Recipients

Morningside Neighborhood Flood  
Risk Reduction

**Barr Engineering Co., Brierley Associates,  
TKDA, and Kraemer North America-  
Nicholson Construction Joint Venture**



Pelican Rapids Dam Removal and  
River Restoration

**Houston Engineering, Inc.**



Allina Health, Central Utility Plant  
**KFI, HDR, and MBJ**



TH 41 Downtown Improvements  
**Bolton & Menk**



Treetop Trail at the Minnesota Zoo  
**Meyer Borgman Johnson**



The Blake School – Early Learning Center  
**HGA**





# STEVE PATTERSON IS BACK AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR 2026 AND HE NEEDS TO KNOW – ARE YOU READY FOR THE ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS?

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**GALA EVENT:  
FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>  
2026**

**GET  
READY!**

**PROJECTS DUE:  
THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
2025**

A man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a blue blazer over a dark green t-shirt and blue trousers with a brown belt, stands behind a clear acrylic podium. He is gesturing with his right hand raised, palm facing forward. The background is dark with yellow geometric lines and gear patterns.

**WE'LL SEE YOU AT  
MCNAMARA ALUMNI CENTER NEXT FEBRUARY!**

**WATCH OUR EEA WEBPAGE FOR UPDATES ON  
OUR INFORMATION SESSION AND MORE –  
[SEE THIS LINK](#)**



# EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament

## June 12, Oak Marsh Golf Course

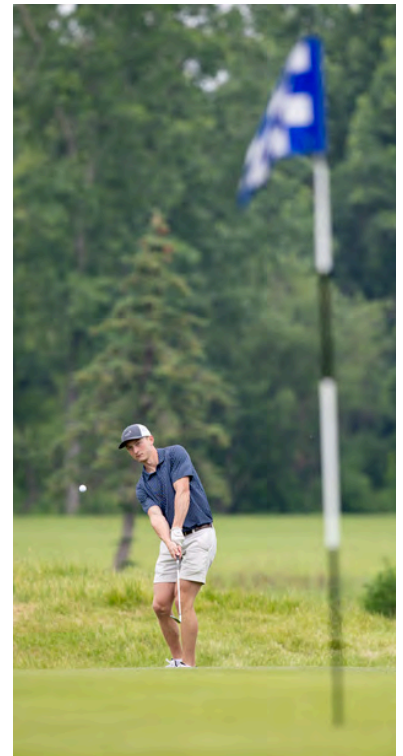


More than 130 golfers, sponsors and volunteers gathered at the Oak Marsh Golf Course for another excellent EEFA Scholarship Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 12th, raising nearly \$50,000!

30 teams competed for the top spot with group 14B taking first place - congratulations go to Brandon Bohks and Jason Malecha from Bolton & Menk, Charlie Fredericks from the City of Northfield and Logan Vlasaty from the City of Burnsville.

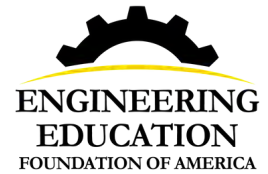
**We hope to see everyone again next year!**

**Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 11th, 2026!**





## Thank You to Our Sponsors!



### Title Sponsor



### Ace Sponsors



### Eagle Sponsors



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### Birdie Sponsors



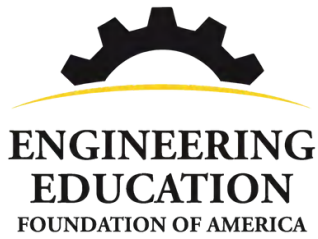
### Par Sponsors



### Putting Green Sponsors







## **43rd Annual DuWayne "Dewey" Kasma Scholarship Softball Tournament**

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

@ Andrews Park in Champlin

Join us for an exciting day of softball that supports the EEFA's Scholarship and Workforce Development Programs!

Sponsorship opportunities still available -  
[Click here for more details or to sign up!](#)



***Thank you to our Sponsors!***



### **Grand Slam Sponsor**



**BOLTON  
& MENK**

### **Home Run Sponsors**



### **RBI Sponsors**



**ALLIANT**



**Stantec**



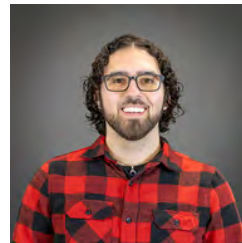
## Member News for May-July 2025

Click on the items below to read more. You can always find ACEC/MN Member News at <https://business.acecmn.org/news>. Reach out to [kelly@acecmn.org](mailto:kelly@acecmn.org) with your news to get on the site and into the next newsletter!

**7/22/2025:**  
**MSA Welcomes Katy Sinnott as Chief Strategy Officer**

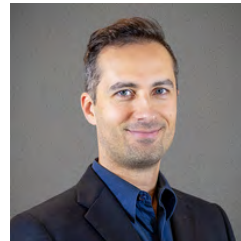


**7/18/2025:**  
**Three KLJ Professionals**  
**Achieve New Certifications**



**6/26/2025: Sambatek Welcomes Chad Erickson as Director of Client Services**

**6/19/2025: Jacob Schuster, KLJ, Earns Professional Land Surveyor License in Minnesota**



**6/12/2025: alliant honored to welcome Danny Werfel, most recent IRS Commissioner, to their Strategic Advisory Board**



**5/28/2025: VAA Expands Presence in Lower Mississippi & Gulf Region**

**5/28/2025: Austin Lovaas, KLJ, Earns Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) License in Minnesota**





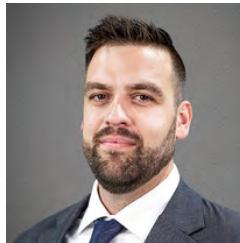
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**5/22/2025: Sambatek Welcomes Frank Brodeen as Water Resources Group Lead for the Public Sector**

**5/13/2025: US Rep. Stauber Reintroduces the Parity in Engineering Act**

**5/9/2025: KLJ Promotes Two Employees to Team Leaders in Minnesota**



**5/6/2025: MSA Rises to No. 288 on ENR Top 500 Design Firms List**

Thanks to our members who submitted news this quarter!





# ACEC Minnesota 2025 Photo Contest



## ACEC/MN wants your photo submissions!

One winner from each category will have their image displayed in the ACEC/MN office for one year, and all pictures will be featured on ACEC/MN webpages and a special newsletter issue. Photos may also be featured in the ACEC/MN Newsletter.

- **Single Category Entry:** \$50
- **Entry in all Categories:** \$200
  - One entry per firm per category

**Submissions due by September 19th**  
**Online Voting:** October 6th–17th

**[Click here to learn more](#)**  
**[or submit your pictures!](#)**

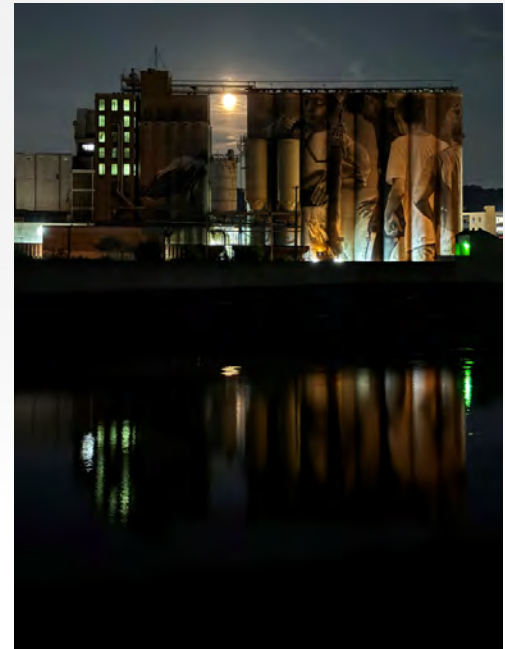
## 2024 Photo Contest Winners



**Building / Vertical Project:**  
Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts,  
Brainerd, MN  
**Widseth**



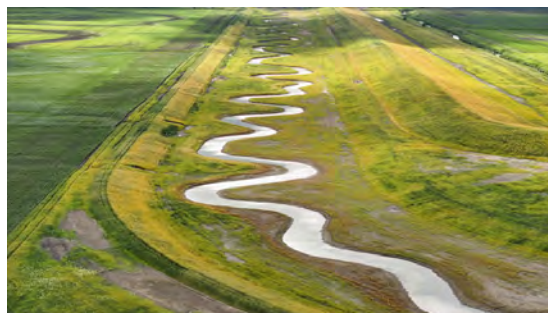
**Transportation, Transit, Aviation /**  
**Horizontal Project:**  
Beltrami CSAH-15 Urban Road  
Reconstruct Roundabout, Bemidji, MN  
**Moore Engineering**



**Minnesota Landscape:**  
Mankato Silos  
**Widseth**



**Human Interest:**  
Fire Spinning on Pelican Lake  
Breezy Point, MN  
**Widseth**



**Water, Environment, Energy or Other**  
**Project:**  
Mustinka River Redpath Impoundment  
Norcross, MN  
**Moore Engineering**



## Reach key contacts in the Engineering Industry and beyond with an ad in the ACEC/MN Newsletter & Annual Report!

Opportunities are available for the 2025-26 newsletter calendar.

### Publications include

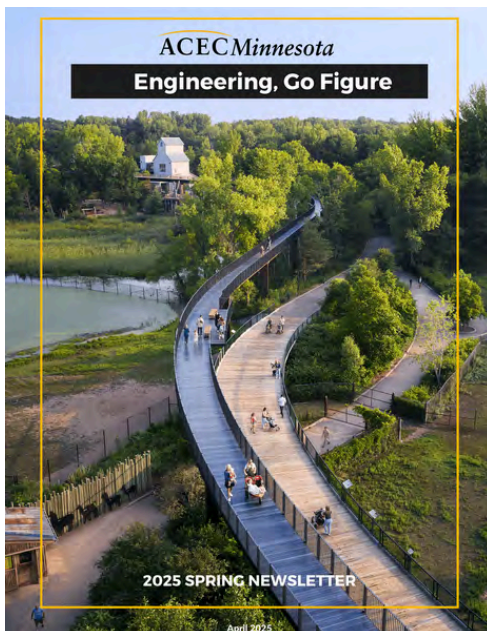
- Summer 2025 (July)
- Fall 2025 (October)
- Winter 2026 (January)
- EEA Recap & Highlights (March)
- Spring 2026 (April)
- Annual Report & other special newsletter issues as announced

Full Page Ad	\$750 per issue \$3600 for year
Half Page Ad	\$500 per issue \$2,400 for year
Quarter Page Ad	\$350 per issue \$1,680 for year

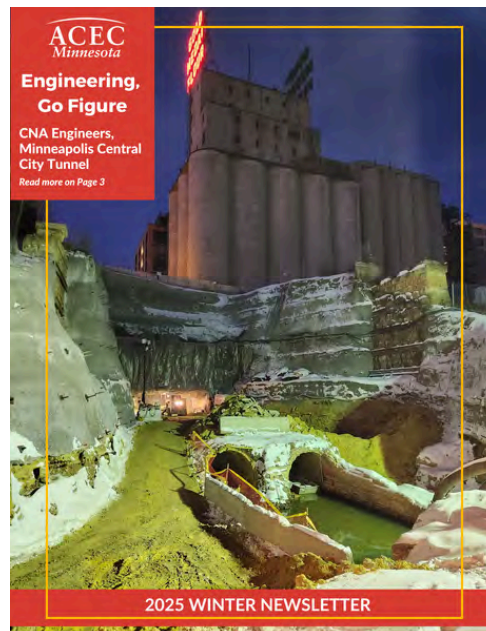
Contact [kelly@acecmn.org](mailto:kelly@acecmn.org) with any questions or to sign on.

Take a look at our most recent issues below,  
[or our full archive here.](#)

### Spring 2025



### Winter 2025



### Fall 2024

