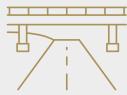


ACEC *Indiana* Issues 2025-26



CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING INSPECTION CIVIL IMMUNITY

- Engineering firms providing Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services on highway and roadway projects are increasingly facing lawsuits related to third-party bodily injuries. However, these firms primarily act on behalf of clients, like INDOT, to monitor compliance with project plans and specifications. **Work zone safety remains the contractor's responsibility.**
- Defending against these lawsuits incurs significant business costs, ultimately increasing overhead for clients like INDOT. To address this, **states such as AL, FL and TX have enacted tort reform** specifically for engineering firms performing CEI services. This reform protects these firms from claims related to property damage, bodily injury, or death.
- The rationale behind this protection is that CEI firms **augment the state's staffing, essentially acting as an extension of the public entity.** Granting them sovereign immunity streamlines lawsuits by removing CEI Firms from such claims because they are acting as agents of the state and are not responsible for work zone safety. This, in turn, reduces legal fees for engineering firms, **leading to lower overhead rates for their clients, including INDOT, which ultimately saves the taxpayers.**



HIGHWAY & ROAD FUNDING

The 2025 Session concluded with a significant victory through the passage of HEA 1461, a road funding bill poised to provide crucial strategies for generating infrastructure funds. This bill incentivizes the adoption of a wheel tax, unlocks access to additional Community Crossings funds based on lane mileage, and opens the door for Indiana to explore federal partnerships on potential tolling initiatives.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! It's vital to continue exploring sustainable funding mechanisms to ensure Indiana's infrastructure keeps pace with our growing needs.



PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Preserving professional engineers' licensure and its associated qualifications is more crucial than ever to ensure a balance of public safety with innovation and economic development.

Understand the potential negative impacts of universal licensure on these standards, as it may compromise the rigorous evaluation and specific expertise required for professionals in the state of Indiana. Learn more in this 3.5 minute video:



STATEWIDE WATER PLAN

In accordance with Executive Order 25-63, Indiana is proactively developing a statewide water plan to ensure the sustainable management of its water resources, addressing current usage, regional disparities, and future demands. This initiative includes a thorough inventory, enhanced monitoring, and a centralized data platform to inform decision-making.

Ultimately, this comprehensive approach aims to secure Indiana's water future, balancing economic progress with environmental sustainability for the benefit of all Hoosiers.



CONTRACTING & Qualifications Based Selection (QBS)

While recent legislative efforts in the 2025 session to enhance oversight of state contracts are a positive step, it's crucial to recognize the distinct nature of professional design services. Selecting engineers and other design professionals based on QBS (IC 5-16-11.1-1) ensures the state benefits from the most competent and experienced teams for complex infrastructure projects.

Preserving QBS alongside increased contract review will safeguard project quality, public safety, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars in Indiana.



PROFESSIONAL DESIGN & "SELF-PERFORMANCE"

Increased "self-performance" by municipal employees along with allowances for some Class 2 buildings to skip professional seals, necessitates careful review of long-term impacts. Licensed design professionals offer a vital independent review, contributing to the safety, durability, and code compliance of construction projects.

A strengthened emphasis on early and consistent collaboration with licensed design professionals can proactively enhance the safety, resilience, and sustainability of Indiana's infrastructure.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

of Indiana

WHO WE ARE

ACEC Indiana is the business voice of 6,000+ engineers, land surveyors and other highly trained specialists and licensed professionals who design and improve our built environment in the Hoosier state.

\$6 billion contributed to the GDP

\$465 million State & Local Taxes Collected

PROJECTS ENGINEERS DELIVER FOR THE STATE



TRANSPORTATION



WATER RESOURCES



VERTICAL STRUCTURES



SURVEY & MAPS



AIRPORTS



PARKS & TRAILS

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- Provide expert testimony on infrastructure issues
- Serve on task forces or advisory boards
- Let ACEC know what needs you have!

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