Coba’s Capitol Comments

Governor Brown has joined with governors from California and Washington to begin a planning process to open up the regional economy from the effects of COVID-19. No certainty of timing has been announced but they expect that various segments of the economy will be rolled out as the health data permits.

The May 20-22 quarterly legislative days have been canceled and legislative leadership has indicated an interest in trying to hold hearings online in the weeks following. The next scheduled legislative hearings will be September 23-25.

Candidates headed toward the May 19 primary election are facing uncharted waters as they campaign in new and creative ways.
Endorsement meetings with news outlets and interest groups have continued to happen via online and phone meetings. The traditional in-person fundraisers are not happening, and candidates will be relying on TV, mail, radio and online social media to reach voters.

Letter to Capitol Hill: ACEC Support for PPP Funding

ACEC sent a letter to Capitol Hill yesterday in support of additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. As you may know, the original funding allocation of $349 billion under the CARES Act is close to being fully utilized, and ACEC and other business community stakeholders are ramping up outreach to Congress to move legislation quickly to recapitalize the loan fund. The letter also notes support for additional emergency funding for State DOTs, which are facing a steep decline in gas tax revenue resulting from the COVID-19 response effort.

I also wanted to alert you to new information links released by the White House last night, including new updated guidance for PPP loans, which can be accessed here. The Department of Treasury has also updated their CARES Act website to include specific sections on:

- Assistance for American Workers and Families
- Assistance for Small Businesses
- Assistance to State and Local Governments
- Preserving Jobs for American Industry

For more information and updates, you can also visit Treasury.gov/CARES and SBA.gov/PayCheckProtection.

ACEC COVID-19 Business Impact Survey - Week 4

The survey includes an executive summary that highlights not only important significant results but also calls out differences in these results by firm size. A few summary bullets are below- the attached executive summary and full report provide more detail.

Firms feel the federal stimulus package will have a positive impact (74% up from 51%)
72% of firms have already applied for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Payroll Protection Program (PPP). Another 14% plan to apply.

65% feel the U.S. economy will be worse in 30 days compared to today, but this represents a decline from 81% from week 3.

Looking out 6 months, nearly 50% of firms feel the economy will improve while more than one-third think it will be worse. Sentiment about the firms’ finances and cash flow follow the same trend.

Firms report they have taken various actions to shore up their finances (68% up from 58%). Freezing non-essential purchases and implementing hiring freezes top the list.

Firms are increasingly providing emergency paid leave (44% up from 34%).

Increase in the percentage of firms (63% up from 45% in Week 3) reporting delays in RFPs/RFQs or Awards due to COVID-19.

Increase in the percentage of firms (76% up from 70% in Week 3) reporting project delays or cancellations due to COVID-19.

ACEC Engineering Influence podcasts

- Coronavirus Special: Government Affairs Update for 4-9-20
- Business Continuity and Adaptation in the Time of Covid-19
- The Chairman’s Corner – Engineering During the Coronavirus Pandemic
UPCOMING

- April 17 – ODOT Liaison Committee meeting
- May 5 – USACE Liaison Committee meeting
- May 12 – From Doer to Leader: Lessons Learned

Comments? Questions? Please e-mail mwebber@acecOregon.org or adavis@acecOregon.org.

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