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Register in advance [HERE](#)

ACEC Engineering Influence Podcasts

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

People's Choice Award
presented by:



Best in Category Award
presented by:



Grand Awards
presented by:



Small Project Award
presented by:



Honor Awards
presented by:



Virtual event!

Engineering Excellence Awards – January 28

COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION!

Be sure to register or invite your client/owners!

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Click [HERE](#) to see who's already registered.

Join us in honoring the fine work performed by Oregon and southwest Washington engineering firms. Sixteen project entries will be recognized. [Click here to view a slideshow of the entries.](#)

**VOTE for the
People's Choice Award!**

Be sure to vote for your
favorite display panel.

Must be registered to vote.
Link to voting site included with
event registration confirmation.

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!
VOTING DEADLINE IS JANUARY 14.

People's Choice Award
presented by:



SCHEDULE

- 3:30 P.M. – Viewing of Entries
- 4:00 P.M. – Program begins
- 5:00 P.M. – Conclusion

Sponsors:





Media sponsor:



WHAT IS ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE?

The Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) is an annual design competition that recognizes engineering achievements which demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. The awards competition spotlights engineers as problem-solvers. For more than 50 years, hundreds of consulting engineering firms have entered their most innovative designs in state competitions.



Marshall Coba
CobaCo Government Relations

“As always, ACEC Oregon will be actively engaged in supporting or opposing a significant number of unanticipated issues during the 2021 legislative session.

“We look forward to active member involvement to help protect and promote the engineering profession in Oregon.”

Coba’s Capitol Comments

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The Oregon Legislature begins the 2021 session looking much like it did in 2019. Democrats will hold strong majorities in both chambers with Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House Tina Kotek both returning. Governor Kate Brown will begin her final long session and will be looking to leave her legacy before being term-limited out in 2022.

The three leaders, Courtney, Kotek and Brown, bring decades of experience working together in the Capitol which should lead to an orderly and efficient session. The certainty of the elections is behind us. However, the uncertainty of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, wildfire recovery, unemployment issues, national and local civic unrest and a new presidential administration will all have an impact on the ultimate progress and policies that come from the '21 session.

The legislature is expected to be nearly 100% online with legislators participating from their homes until early April or whenever Marion County meets COVID-19 matrix for in-person activity. This virtual session will be new and different for all participants including the legislators, lobbyists, interested public, interest groups and for staff. The legislature gathered in Salem this week for organizing and training. They will return on Tuesday, January 19 for more kickoff activities. Hearings are expected to begin the week of January 26 and the session will end in late June. Committee hearings will be 100% online with staff organizing testimony signups, hearing processes and timing.



All things related to the legislature can be found at this website

(committees, hearing schedules, video, contact information and other key information):

[Oregon State Legislature \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](http://oregonlegislature.gov)

Bill introductions remain on a normal pace with more than 3,000 anticipated by the bill introduction deadline. More than 1,800 have been introduced and ACEC will be tracking bills of keen interest to the engineering profession.

Committee chairs will need to prioritize issues as the time frames for passing from the first chamber have been shortened by two weeks. This prioritization will most likely be advantageous to most interests, as bills with nefarious intent may not make the top of the list. The concern for lobbyists is the lack of in-person contact that will make phone, email and text the only contact opportunities for the first few months and maybe the entire session. To help break through the email clutter, constituent involvement will be necessary.

All things related to the legislature can be found at this website (committees, hearing schedules, video, contact information and other key information):
[Oregon State Legislature \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](http://oregonlegislature.gov)

ACEC ISSUES

Senate Bill 213: [Duty to Defend](#) will be a priority for ACEC as we work with AIA Oregon, PLSO, TriMet, OAME and others to pass this important bill to ensure fairness in public contracting. SB 213 will ensure that design professionals will not be required to agree to duty to defend clauses in construction contracts. Duty to defend requirements are especially detrimental to small, emerging, women and minority owned businesses. SB 213 will ensure that each party to a construction contract be responsible for their own negligence or fault.

House Bill 2310: Pipe Preferences for water projects returns for further discussion. A similar bill failed last session under the strong opposition of ACEC, local governments, AGC, OCAPA and others concerned about giving plastic pipe advantages in the design process.

2017 Transportation Package: ACEC Oregon will continue to stay intimately involved with enactment of the package. We look forward to working with legislators, state and local transportation leaders and Oregon Transportation Commission to implement the major projects that were mandated in the bill from the 2017 session.

Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS): ACEC Oregon is attempting to work closely with local governments to implement the new QBS law from the 2019 session. Ongoing educational events will be key in 2021 to help ensure that local government procurement staff are aware of the benefits and are comfortable with the QBS process.

Two Transportation Committees: Both the Joint Transportation Committee and the Joint Committee on the Interstate Bridge will be meeting this session. ACEC will participate with both committees to assist in helping to find a path forward on key policy issues.

As always, ACEC Oregon will be actively engaged in supporting or opposing a significant number of unanticipated issues during the 2021 legislative session. We look forward to active member involvement to help protect and promote the engineering profession in Oregon.



Stay Connected with
Oregon Department of Revenue:
[Department of Revenue Homepage](#)
[Contact us](#)

Taxpayers with general questions
about the CAT can email
cat.help.dor@oregon.gov
or call 503-945-8005.

Corporate Activity Tax update

4th quarter payments due February 1

Fourth-quarter 2020 estimated payments for Oregon's new Corporate Activity Tax are due by February 1, 2021. Taxpayers expecting to owe \$10,000 or more of Corporate Activity Tax for the 2020 calendar year must make estimated payments.

For businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oregon Department of Revenue will honor a business taxpayer's good-faith efforts to comply with the CAT payment requirements and not assess penalties if they document their efforts, including how COVID-19 has impacted their business, to comply.

If COVID-19-impacted businesses know they'll owe \$10,000 or more in annual corporate activity tax in 2020 and can pay, they should make estimated quarterly payments and comply with the law to the fullest extent possible.

Estimated quarterly payments for the CAT are generally due on the last day of the month following the end of quarter. Because January 31 falls on a weekend, fourth-quarter estimated payments are due February 1.

Guidance about making CAT quarterly payments can be found on the [CAT page](#) of the Department of Revenue website. Information includes:

- How do I calculate CAT liability?
- When are estimated payments required?
- How do I pay my estimated taxes?

Businesses must register for the CAT within 30 days of reaching \$750,000 in Oregon commercial activity in the calendar year. Registration is a one-time requirement. Businesses that registered in 2020 are not required to register again when they reach \$750,000 in commercial activity in subsequent years. Registration is available through Revenue Online, and the department offers a series of online resources on the [CAT page](#) of the agency's website to help with registration.



WHEN
11:00 A.M.

[Click here for more info](#)
[and to register.](#)
(login required)

ACEC Research Institute's Future of Engineering Roundtable Series
[Building Density in the Post-Pandemic World](#) – January 14

The pandemic has forced us to change the way we live and work. This roundtable will address various topics on how buildings are designed in the future, particularly for traditionally densely occupied buildings such as urban high rises in the central business district, healthcare and education, and what critical design changes are needed to ensure occupant safety in the future.

Join the conversation!
[Click here to go directly to registration.](#) (Login required.)



Listen on **[PodBean](#)**
or **[Apple Podcasts](#)**

[ACEC Engineering Influence Podcasts](#)

- [The Omnibus, PPP and a Senate Flip: The ACEC Government Affairs Update](#)
- [Discussing Embodied Carbon Solutions with Walter P. Moore's Dirk Kestner](#)
- [A Conversation with Barge Design Solutions, the 2020 Grand Conceptor Recipient](#)

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

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

Serving the business needs of engineering and surveying companies in Oregon and southwest Washington since 1956.

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Upcoming events: http://www.acecoregon.org/calendar_list.asp.

ACEC Oregon is 115 member firms strong representing approximately 4,000 employees!

Check out our online directory at http://www.acecoregon.org/AF_MemberDirectory.asp.

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