



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 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