



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Georgia

# ACEC Management Update

American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia

January 2011

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendar!

### January Lunch Membership Meeting

January 20, 2011  
The Georgian Club

### **Future Workload from US Army Corps of Engineers - South Atlantic Division**

Speaker: Gary McAlister,  
Senior Regional Construction Engineer,  
SAD, US Army Corps of Engineers

Click [Membership](#) for additional information and on-line registration

### **Building Georgia Legislative Reception**

February 22, 2011  
The Georgia Freight Depot



Mark your calendar! Join engineers, architects, contractors, and industry professionals at the 11th Annual Building Georgia Legislative Reception to be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at the Georgia Freight Depot. Additional information and on-line registration will be available soon.

### **Engineers Week Banquet**

February 26, 2011  
The Georgia Tech Hotel and

Happy New Year!

The ACEC/G Board of Directors and staff would like to say thank you to more than 250 engineering firms and associate members who took a leadership role in Georgia's engineering industry and participated as a member in 2010.

An "in progress" calendar marking special events and programs planned for 2011 is available for you to review on our new and improved [website](#). In the next few days ACEC/G will be transitioning to a new database that will be linked to a portal on our website. Once logged into the portal, your contact information will be saved for future registrations. More information to come! This is one of many communication enhanced benefits that ACEC/G will be providing to its members in 2011.

Should you have any questions about your membership or to learn how you might become more actively involved, please contact [Gwen Brandon](#), ACEC/G Executive Director at 404-521-2324.

### **Good news: Georgia's Tax Reform Council did NOT recommend extending the state sales tax to include Professional Services!**

The "Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians" released its report this afternoon - just in advance of the 2011 General Assembly that was scheduled to convene this week.

A special committee composed of House and Senate Leaders must convert the Council's recommendations into legislation, without change, and put it to an up-or-down vote, without any floor amendments. The recommendations of the Council, therefore, assume special weight since the General Assembly cannot tinker with them.

Our biggest concern was that the state sales tax would be extended to include professional services, a professional services tax (PST). The Council did not recommend a PST, which, of course includes engineering fees. The Council did recommend extending the current

Convention Center

Click [E-Week](#) for additional information regarding the banquet. Congratulations EEA Winners! Click [ACEC/G](#) for winners of the 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards competition who will be recognized at the E-Week Banquet. On-line registration will be available soon.



### 2011 Georgia Engineers Summer Conference

June 19-22, 2011  
Reynolds Plantation, Lake Oconee,  
Georgia



Stay tuned for program and on-line registration!

### Our Advertisers

If you are interested in advertising in the *Management Update* Newsletter, contact

[Gwen Brandon](#) for pricing information and to reserve your space!

### Our Website

To visit our new website, click [ACEC/G](#). If you have any comments or suggestions for improving our website, please contact [Gwen Brandon](#).

4% sales tax to many services that were not heretofore taxed, such as car repair, haircuts, shoe repair, lawn services, and many more.

There are many more recommendations that ACEC/G and Georgia's Legislative Coalition will have to digest over the coming weeks. Visit [Legislative Update](#) on ACEC/G's website for a more detailed report.

### Governor Deal Speaks of Transportation and Water in His Inaugural Address

Gov. Deal spoke of water and transportation in his inaugural address to a joint session of the General Assembly on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol. Although his two leading issues were public safety and education (including HOPE scholarships), he next mentioned transportation and water:

"Another core responsibility of State Government is transportation. With an expansive land mass that is populated by one large metropolitan area, several medium-sized municipalities, and many smaller cities and rural counties, our transportation needs are very diverse. With our ports at Savannah and Brunswick, we are part of an expanding international trade community. We will do our part to deepen the Savannah port in order to accommodate the larger vessels that will soon pass through the Panama Canal. But we must do more. Our rail capacity and cargo routes must be improved and expanded. We must not miss this opportunity to provide jobs for Georgians.

Highway congestion, especially in the Greater Atlanta area is a deterrent to job growth in the region. If we do not solve this problem soon, we will lose the businesses who want to expand or locate in our State. I am dedicated to working with all elements of government to improve our transportation system and I call on all Georgians to join us. We must put aside some of the regional differences of the past and work for the common good of our State.

As our State continues to grow, the demand for water has likewise increased. As Governor, I will continue to pursue negotiations with Alabama and Florida to reach a resolution of the long standing dispute over the use of water in our Federal reservoirs and our major rivers. We will develop regional reservoirs and continue our conservation efforts. We have been blessed with abundant water resources and we must use them wisely."

In these types of speeches, you get the broad outline of his priorities. It is good news that transportation and water are number 3 and 4 in the list - since there were only five priorities (the fifth being opposition to the federal health care reform). One item seems to be more of a guiding principle: "State government cannot and should not be expected to provide for us what we can provide for ourselves." In the context of his remarks, it is clear that

## Contact Us

American Council of Engineering  
Companies  
of Georgia  
233 Peachtree Street,  
Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-521-2324  
FAX 404-521-0283

transportation and water are things that state government should take on and not be left for us to "provide for ourselves."

We can expect legislation to facilitate regional water supply reservoirs, and now we know that the Governor will be a supporter. With transportation as a "core responsibility of State Government", we should also look for support from the Governor, although what form that support takes is unclear - at least for now.

*(This is the first Legislative Update during Georgia's 2011 General Assembly Legislative Session that will be forwarded to you and included on ACEC/G's website. The kick-off of the 2011 General Assembly has been muted by the bad weather, which has shut down much of North Georgia.)*

### People and Business News

Last Friday, Governor Perdue announced a new appointment to the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors:

**George C. Howroyd, Ph.D., P.E., 63, Atlanta** - Howroyd is vice president of CH2M HILL Technology Fellow, and a practicing professional engineer with the Atlanta office of CH2M HILL. He serves as president of the Board of Directors of the Perimeter Transportation and Sustainability Coalition. Howroyd has over 30 years of engineering experience and received a bachelor's degree, master's degree, and a doctorate from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

*(Please provide any announcements regarding people or business news within your Georgia firms to [Gwen Brandon](#) for printing in the Management Update newsletter.)*