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ACEC New York Announces Safety Committee to Help Engineers Address Critical Infrastructure

ALBANY, March 31, 2020 — ACEC New York Chair, Thomas Cascino, PE, has announced the formation of a safety committee that will help identify and update best practices for design professionals who must remain working at job sites or in the office.

“During this crisis, emergency personnel need to rely on efficient transportation and mobility to perform their jobs, and all New Yorkers need access to clean water and reliable waste systems. It is incumbent upon ACEC New York to help our member firms keep those employees supporting this critical infrastructure as safe as possible.”

The committee will be staffed by a diverse group of professionals from various disciplines related to the built environment. Committee members will communicate with industry partners, including public clients, with the goal of maintaining up-to-date safety protocols. All industry partners will have access to any reports or recommended guidelines established by the committee.

COVID-19 Safety Committee

Engineers have a responsibility to public health safety and welfare. Engineering firms have a responsibility to their employees to keep them safe. The challenges created by the current pandemic, including stretching limited resources, is enormous.

Engineers and other licensed design professionals are required to work in less than ideal conditions so that other critical safety measures, necessary for the safety and health of millions of people, can be achieved. Critical infrastructure, defined as the transportation system, water and wastewater systems, public safety, hospital and medical facilities, and habitation for our most needy citizens all fall within this designation. Depending on location and circumstances, other systems may be deemed critical, as well.

Identifying best practices and implementing lessons learned are the cornerstones of establishing, maintaining and updating recommended guidelines for employees to stay safe at home, in the office, on job sites or traveling between any of the aforementioned locations. By using data from governmental agencies, including the CDC, information can be updated based on facts and science.

Members of the committee shall meet as often as necessary to serve the needs of the industry. Information will be made widely available to all of our partners in the public and private sector.

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ACEC New York is a proactive coalition representing nearly 300 member firms who engage in every discipline of engineering related to the built environment including civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, environmental, and geotechnical. Our shared goals are to further the business interests of our membership, enhance the quality and safety of the environment we live and work in, and help ensure the vitality of our communities. For more information, visit www.acecny.org.