

Invest in our Infrastructure

build an even better Wisconsin

FACT SHEET

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Wisconsin

ISSUE

A strong infrastructure leads to continued economic growth for Wisconsin's businesses and its residents. As our state continues to grow, infrastructure improvements and development must be closely coordinated and complement each other to produce healthy, vibrant communities.

It is important to look ahead 10 to 20 years to see how decisions made today will affect infrastructure and economic issues in the future. Investing in our state's infrastructure is critical to our social well-being and quality of life.

KEY POINTS

- Consulting engineers are important partners for local and state governments in planning and designing technically feasible, cost-effective solutions.
- Our quality of life and economy depend on the availability of good drinking water and effective wastewater treatment systems. Continuous investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is necessary.
- Wisconsin's transportation industry is at a crossroads. Investments in transportation infrastructure are essential to a prospering economy. We can lead the nation in job creation through transportation infrastructure investment.
- The current situation of a shrinking funding base, escalating construction costs, and increased demand puts our aging infrastructure at risk. The time to act is now.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Invest in Wisconsin's infrastructure as an opportunity for economic growth.
- Pursue new and different revenue sources.
- Explore public-private teamwork for programming, planning, designing, building, maintaining, and operating components of Wisconsin's infrastructure.

the business voice of the Wisconsin consulting engineering industry

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin represents 69 premier engineering firms, with more than 145 offices across Wisconsin. Founded in 1958, our member firms employ nearly 3,500 engineers, architects, planners, geologists, soil scientists, hydrologists, surveyors, and other professionals. For more information, visit www.acecwi.org or contact us at 608-257-9223.

Qualifications-Based Selection

“when quality and value matter”

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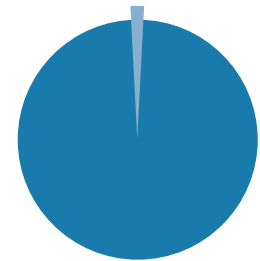
It is in the public's best interest when consulting engineers are selected on the basis of qualifications rather than price. Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) safeguards the public safety and funds by enabling public agencies to acquire the services of the most qualified engineering firm for a particular project at a reasonable cost.

Engineering projects are typically complex. Years of education and experience are required to effectively apply these skills to obtain the best value for the public client. Too often, procurement of engineering services are being bid and awarded to the lowest price. Often low bid design results in problems including change orders and high construction cost.

Lifecycle Costs of a Typical Project

engineering vs. construction & maintenance costs

- construction & maintenance (98%)
- engineering costs (2%)



KEY POINTS

- The federal government requires QBS in order to save money and ensure quality design on all projects using federal funding.
- Wisconsin is one of only four states that does not have QBS legislation on the books.
- Using QBS provides value and saves Wisconsin taxpayers money.
- The Wisconsin Departments of Administration and Transportation use the QBS process in the selection of engineers and architects with exceptional results.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Pass legislation requiring the use of a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process for the procurement of consulting engineering services on all projects partially or totally funded by the state. (2009-10 Session SB 442/AB 654)

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Keep It Local - Use Wisconsin Firms

create a fertile business environment

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The use of Wisconsin engineering companies provides employment for state residents, contributes property and business taxes to help support state and local programs, and encourages the development of technologies that benefit economic growth.

Government cannot create businesses, but it can create fertile conditions for growth by building a strong business environment. Government can help state businesses grow by utilizing Wisconsin consulting engineers efficiently.

KEY POINTS

- Wisconsin's public infrastructure needs are far greater than state government's internal capacity to deliver. This is where Wisconsin engineering firms are vital assets. Effective use of public agency staff and private sector companies for the most efficient use of limited resources is the answer to the significant funding challenges facing government today.
- High quality teams of engineers, planners, architects, scientists, and other related professional technical staff are available in the private sector to complement state government agencies by providing expertise, state-of-the-art technology, and experience necessary to complete high quality projects in an efficient, cost effective manner.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Support a state budget that encourages the use of Wisconsin engineering companies to complement state agency work.
- Support the use of engineering companies to assist in the management of special programs and initiatives.

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