

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Journal will not produce an edition dated Friday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day.

The advertising deadline for the Monday, December 28 newspaper is 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 24.

Please call 609-336-2746 to advertise.

THE DAILY JOURNAL

NAMES in the news

ACEC/C Bestows Highest Honor For Professional Engineering Work

The American Council of Engineering Cos. of Colorado honored Robert G. Carlson, Muller Engineering Co., Lakewood, with the association's highest honor as the winner of the association's Orley O. Phillips Award.



Carlson

This annual award is granted to an ACEC Colorado member who has made significant contributions to the profession, the council and its programs. Carlson received this award based on his commendable career as a civil and transportation engineer for 47 years.

His active involvement in ACEC Colorado began in 1984, having served on a variety of committees that include the Transportation Committee, the Engineering Excellence Awards Committee, the Qualifications Based Selection Colorado Coalition, and eventually, the Board of Directors.

Carlson commented, "I would like to thank ACEC Colorado for this honor, and Muller for all of the support in my 36 years there."

Carlson was nominated by Mark Hamouz, 2019 recipient of the Orley O. Phillips Award. In Carlson's nomination form, Hamouz noted that, "Rob exhibits an effective and quiet leadership approach to everything he touches. He is known as a highly ethical person whose standards are well noticed when he interacts with clients, consultants and other people who are affected by our [engineering] profession."

Carlson has spent the majority of his career at Muller, where he was instrumental in starting the transportation practice in 1984. He worked side-by-side with former Colorado Dept. of Transportation chief engineer, Ed Haase, and the staff at Muller to deliver high-quality transportation projects for public-sector clients.

Carlson became the president of Muller after the death of Larry Muller in 1995 and helped lay the foundation for a company that grew from 16 employees in 1995 to one that now employs more than 130 people.

After 18 years as president, Carlson has since stepped down from that role and now serves as a senior business consultant to Muller as both a mentor and ambassador for the engineering profession.

FIRMS breaking new ground

RTD Allows Customers to Exchange 2020 Ticket Books Until Jan. 31

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) is allowing customers to exchange 10-Ride tickets or Access-A-Ride tickets for credit towards 2021 ticket books or monthly passes until Jan. 31. Unused tickets expired as of Dec. 31 will be accepted as valid fare payment until Jan. 31.

Exchanges can be made in person at RTD-operated sales outlets or by mail. Credit will be given toward the purchase of full ticket books only. Ticket-for-ticket exchange and cash refunds are not available. No exchanges of 2020 tickets are allowed after Jan. 31.

RUSH - TIME VALUE NEWSPAPER

Will Project Labor Agreements Grow in Biden Administration?

By Bruce Buckley, ENR

As the Biden Administration prepares to take office in January, construction unions, employers and industry groups are eyeing the potential for a resurgence—and possible expansion—of project labor agreements on federal projects.

Throughout the campaign, then-candidate Joe Biden touted his long-standing support of union issues. In a September letter to the Laborers union, he vowed that his administration would "prioritize project labor and community workforce agreements."

In recent decades, use of the project labor agreement (PLA) on federal projects has tracked with Democratic administrations favoring them and Republican administrations discouraging or actively opposing them. President Barack Obama signed an executive order in 2009 that encouraged executive agencies to consider requiring a PLA on projects of \$25 million or more. The order revoked one that was signed under the Bush administration barring government-mandated PLAs on federal projects.

President Donald Trump did not rescind the Obama order, but there is no record of a PLA used on a large project during his presidency, says the Associated Builders and Contractors. ABC identified just 12 100% federally funded projects that used a PLA during Obama's eight years in office.

Looking at the Issues

Mike Bellaman, CEO of ABC, says he expects the new administration to expand PLA requirements. The president-elect "seems to be in the camp of mandating PLA," he says. "For us, that would fly in the face of fair and open competition." Bellaman says ABC opposes mandated PLA use that could exclude nonunion bidders on work. Construction union members represent about 13% of the industry workforce, says the U.S. Labor Dept.

Building trades officials say Obama-era projects include PLA successes.

The U.S. Navy used one in 2012 for an explosives-handling wharf project at the U.S. Navy's Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor near Seattle. The project, initially estimated at \$715 million, was finished in 2016 at a final cost of \$448 million, union officials say.



"Most agencies have agreed that requiring a PLA is unlikely to lower the cost or expedite the construction of a project."

Mike Kennedy, General Counsel, AGC of America

They pushed for a PLA on the complex and time-sensitive project to ensure greater certainty of delivery and "no disruptions in labor," says Monty Anderson, executive secretary of Seattle's building trades council.

Anderson says the project was significant in an area hit hard by the loss of paper and timber industry jobs. "Unions did lots of outreach to local residents to get them into pre-apprenticeship training prior to the job," he says. "It was a big job and we were able to ramp up for it."

The Associated General Contractors of America, Washington state chapter, had protested use of the agreement to the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Mike Kennedy, general counsel of the Associated General Contractors of

America, says that while there are areas where some PLAs are warranted, most agencies "have agreed that requiring a PLA is unlikely to lower the cost or expedite the construction of a project."

AGC, which called for the Trump Administration to rescind the Obama executive order, now is analyzing data from that administration on PLA use by executive agencies. Kennedy says initial findings in the still-ongoing study show that after procurement officials survey market conditions, they rarely choose it.

AGC, with both union and nonunion members, opposes use mandates from owners, including the government, says Kennedy. "Owners should stay out of" construction collective bargaining and "avoid discriminating against companies that do not regularly work" under labor pacts, he says. "This is an industry matter."

PLAs can also be applied to projects that use federal dollars, a practice not allowed under the Bush-era order. Ben Brubeck, an ABC vice president, says the Federal Highway Administration approved about 450 PLA projects between May 2010 and January 2020, accounting for about \$11.6 billion in total contract value. ABC sees potential for more PLAs on projects with federal dollars, including those in the next infrastructure stimulus bill, says Bellaman.

October Contracts for Future Construction in Fort Collins Loveland metropolitan area

(in millions of dollars)	2020	2019	% Change
Nonresidential	\$8.8M	\$42.5M	-79
Residential	\$57.5M	\$68.0M	-15
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	\$66.4M	\$110.5M	-40

Construction starts, year-to-date on a cumulative basis

(in millions of dollars)	2020	2019	% Change
Nonresidential	\$293.1M	\$227.7M	29
Residential	\$748.3M	\$456.6M	64
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	\$1.04B	\$684.4M	52

• Nonresidential buildings include commercial, manufacturing, educational, religious, administrative, recreational, hotel, dormitory and other buildings.
• Residential buildings include one- and two-family houses and apartments.

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October Contracts for Future Construction in Greeley metropolitan area

(in millions of dollars)	2020	2019	% Change
Nonresidential	\$19.9M	\$27.0M	-26
Residential	\$83.5M	\$88.0M	-5
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	\$103.4M	\$115.1M	-10

Construction starts, year-to-date on a cumulative basis

(in millions of dollars)	2020	2019	% Change
Nonresidential	\$247.0M	\$178.2M	39
Residential	\$717.6M	\$814.4M	-12
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	\$964.6M	\$992.7M	-3

• Nonresidential buildings include commercial, manufacturing, educational, religious, administrative, recreational, hotel, dormitory and other buildings.
• Residential buildings include one- and two-family houses and apartments.

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