



## THIS ISSUE

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## A&Z WELCOMES NEW CLIENTS!

While A&Z appreciates the loyal clients we have worked with over the past twelve years, it is exciting to add to our growing list. A&Z recently secured work with the following communities. We look forward to developing long-term trusted relationships with each of these communities.

SOUTH BEND

SYRACUSE

WARREN

COLUMBIA CITY

With more than 300 years of combined design and construction inspection experience, A&Z staff put the client's satisfaction and public's safety at the forefront of each project.

**A&Z's Mission Statement:**  
Dedication to provide the highest quality professional civil engineering solutions with competitive, honest, and timely services while maintaining public safety, integrity, and value to the community.



## HB 1002 PASSES – COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM SEES POSITIVE CHANGES

By: Jamal Anabtawi, PE, Owner/Business Development Director



*Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb and legislators recently passed House Bill 1002 to assist cities, towns, and counties fund their roadway and bridge projects. It is encouraging that the Indiana Legislature is working to tackle*

*funding for the long-range needs and demands of Indiana's transportation system. There are some positive changes happening now, but more is needed to help aid Indiana's overall transportation infrastructure program moving forward.*

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 2016, INDOT launched the "Community Crossing Matching Grants" State funding program. This money was to be used for preservation type of projects such as maintenance, reconstruction of existing roadway, sidewalks and ramps, and bridges. That same year, \$146.5 million was awarded to local governments to assist with all types of projects. This was in addition to the annual \$250 million or 25% of total federal funds that INDOT receives annually from the federal aid program. The program started with 50/50 match and many local governments took advantage of this program.

For the local community to qualify for this program, they had to complete a pavement evaluation and Asset Management Plan. The maximum that locals could apply for was \$1M and the local community had to provide a letter of commitment verifying their \$500K match (or their 50% share) along with identifying the source of funds for this program. Sources for the matching funding could include Local Option Income Tax, Wheel/Surtax or Rainy Day funds.

### POSITIVE CHANGES HELP LOCAL COMMUNITY – MORE TO COME

This year, the program added more positive changes in the funding mechanism to make it more attractive for additional communities to apply. For any community (county, city, or town) with respective population less than 50,000, the matching funds are now reduced to 25% local share and 75% INDOT. Although this program would increase construction funds for projects, smaller communities are still having difficulty coming up with their match. Many of the projects need professional services such as engineering, right-of-way, environmental, and/or inspection services. And because the program doesn't cover the fees for these professional services, some communities are challenged to come up with finding the funds for their portion of the project cost. Due to this situation, a significant amount of money will remain unused even though the availability is there.

Legislatures are currently looking at other ways to bridge the gap and shortage of funds needed in supporting INDOT's and local government's needs. To help these small communities, some of the rules need to be adjusted to allow compensation for these professional services. It is hopeful that as the program continues to evolve and further changes are made, more applicants will be able to participate and benefit from the program.

*For more information on how your community could benefit from the funding program, contact A&Z Owner/Business Development Director Jamal Anabtawi, PE, at 260.485.7077 or [jamal@az-engineering.net](mailto:jamal@az-engineering.net).*



## >>> COOKING A MEAL WITH JAMAL



### Jamal's Flavorful Shish Kabob

*"Perfect served with rice and fresh garden vegetables on a warm Indiana summer evening!"*

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1-2 lbs. of chicken breast (in cubes)
- 1-2 lbs. of cut up meat (in cubes)
- 1 garlic clove (smashed)
- ½ good-sized lemon
- 1 Tbsp. rosemary
- 1 Tbsp. Allspice (or six spice mix)
- 1 Tbsp. oregano
- ½ Tbsp. cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. thyme

#### COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix all ingredient and marinate overnight (at least 12 hours...The longer the better!)
2. The next day, place marinated meat on skewers.
3. Grill until properly cooked (15-20 minutes).
4. **Enjoy!**



## >>> LATEST NEWS FROM A&Z

*A&Z continues to welcome professionals to our expanding engineering and construction inspection team...*

**Daniel Hess, Jr., Engineer** | Daniel has over 14 years of experience with planning, mapping and the design of

municipal wastewater, water and stormwater improvement projects. He has been assisting our resident project representatives, and has been working with the City of Fort Wayne on several projects. Daniel has an extensive background designing and developing sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water mapping projects. He has worked with IDEM, IDNR, INDOT, and USACE agencies over the years. Daniel has also designed gravity collection systems, sanitary sewer pumping stations, and vacuum sewer lines.

**Ruperto "Birdie" Trevino, PE, Sr. Resident Project Representative** | Birdie has worked for 40 years in the engineering industry. He has been a design engineer, project manager, and resident project representative. He will be joining our experienced construction inspection crew. *His expansive knowledge will be an asset to our growing team!*

**Naseeruddin (Naseer) Shaik Imam, Engineer** | Naseer has a Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India. He recently graduated with a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from Trine University. He most recently worked for the City of Fort Wayne as a Lead Research Analyst. There he worked on more than 100,000 water services to identify lead issues. *Naseer is a welcome addition to our team.*



**A&Z engineer passes exam...** We are proud to announce that Andrew Scheribel has passed his professional engineering exam and is now officially a 'Professional Engineer.' Congratulations, Andrew!

**Office parking lot improvement project underway...** Expected to be completed by fall 2017, the parking lot expansion at A&Z's new office will provide 20 additional parking spaces. **If you haven't stopped by our new office at 1220 Ruston Pass in Fort Wayne yet, please visit us soon!** We would love to show you around our new home.



## >>> A&Z BELIEVES IN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITIES WE WORK IN AND SERVE...

*The A&Z Engineering team believes in supporting the communities we live and work in by participating in local events. A&Z is proud to be a sponsor for the following:*

A&Z is again supporting the **City of Angola** this summer with the Hornets Soccer Academy. Hosted by Angola High School, this will be the twelfth annual Academy.

Again this year, Jamal & Sherry Anabtawi participated in the annual **MS Society Walk** on May 20, 2017. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry kicked off the event and thanked those dedicated participants who walked the 1.5 mile route in less than ideal weather. Those participants not only showed their commitment in fighting and finding a cure for the disease, but helped contribute to the \$39,423.29 raised by this event!

A&Z is sponsoring for the City of Fort Wayne CU staff in the **"Dragon Boat Races"** at River Palooza on June 24, 2017. The goal of this event is to build "teamwork" and the City has asked Mark Voss and Allie Vodde (A&Z employees) to be part of the team.

A clean city makes a difference: It looks better to residents and visitors, and improves the overall quality of life. To help this cause, A&Z was also a \$500 sponsor for the annual **City of Fort Wayne "Great American Clean-Up"** Day. Senior Engineering Designer Wesley Downing led his team in cleaning the Hearthstone Village neighborhood. The Great American Clean-Up is the nation's largest community improvement program Fort Wayne has participated in for over 20 years. In participating in the Great American Clean-Up, we can show our community pride by lending a hand to clean up roadsides, parks, trails and river ways.

*A&Z is also proud to support the following community organizations...*

- Angola Girls Soccer Team
- Fort Wayne T.C. 12 Youth Travel Baseball Club
- Fort Wayne Aboite Girls Softball



Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry with Jamal and Sherry during recent MS Society Walk event.



A&Z friends and family on the scene during the Great American Clean-Up Day in Fort Wayne!

“It is important to us at A&Z to **give back** and support the **communities we serve.**”

Warren Zwick, PE, Owner

## >>> WHAT IS CIVIL ENGINEERING?

**CIVIL ENGINEERING IS ARGUABLY THE OLDEST DISCIPLINE...**

It deals with the built environment and can be dated back to the first time a roof was placed. There are the outward, visible signs of civil engineering, such as roads, bridges, subway systems, but there are the invisible ones too. Every time you turn a water faucet, you expect water to come out, without thinking about the engineers who make this possible. Sanitary engineering has evolved so much so that most are now called civil and environmental engineering. Civil engineering is constantly changing and updating with the times. It is all around us and each day, we use it to get ready for our day and to move about our day through water, sewer, roads, bridges, traffic signals, and even our own homes. [source: <http://civil.columbia.edu/what-civil-engineering>]



## >>> SAFETY FROM THE GROUND UP

*Read what A&Z Construction Manager Mark Voss and Inspector Allie Vodde had to say about construction safety in a recent Business People Magazine ProSpeak article...*

What do you think of when you hear the term 'construction'? Some might think of bridges or roads, but in all reality construction starts from the ground up. This is quite literal, considering all buildings, bridges and roads have foundations that are crucial for their structural stability. There are also types of underground as well, such as pipe systems in the form of storm, water and sanitary sewers. And as this foundation is built, it is critical that the safety of the public and contractors is held paramount during the underground construction. Here are a few components for safe construction:

**CONSTANT OBSERVATION:** Making sure an inspector is on-site to record the activities of the construction process is an important part of the construction process. The inspector must be aware and remind the contractor(s) of all required safety procedures. An inspector communicates with all parties involved, remains attentive, and focuses on catching errors in safety procedures as they occur to reduce the likelihood of an accident.

**PREVENTATIVE AND SAFE PRACTICES:** Most specification books and plans have specific safety regulations listed specific to that project. In addition, contractors need to reference OSHA and state requirements like proper signage, using a trench box, wearing a hard hat and safety harness, and ensuring all contractors and inspectors are aware of the surroundings. The construction team also needs to monitor the weather and changes in the soil stability, watching for changes such as fissures on the surface of the soil that could indicate an issue or potential collapse.

**IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** If an accident does occur, immediate action should be taken and emergency personnel can be called. By ensuring all equipment is up to date, calibrated, and readily available throughout the project, no time will be wasted looking for safety equipment or the necessary first-aid equipment if the need does arise.

Paying attention and having the right processes in place will improve the safety at a project site for both the construction team and public.

*For more information on construction safety or A&Z's services, contact Mark Voss at 260.485.7077 or [mark@az-engineering.net](mailto:mark@az-engineering.net).*



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