

ACEC Testifies at FHWA Sessions on TEA-21 Reforms



ACEC member Tim Stowe (r)

ACEC was recently represented at two recent roundtable sessions hosted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the environmental streamlining reforms in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Tim Stowe, of Anderson & Associates, Inc. in Blacksburg, VA, testified on behalf of ACEC at an October 9 session in Washington, DC. Hal Lochner, of Lochner, Inc. in Chicago, participated in a similar

session on October 15 in downtown Chicago. The meetings brought together many of the stakeholders in transportation policy to discuss what steps FHWA should take to ensure that its new rules and regulations for TEA-21 follow the intent of Congress. In addition to a strong voice from the consulting engineering community, participants included state DOT representatives, environmental advocates, and transit officials. After a lively discussion of how best to implement TEA-21's new requirements for coordinated environmental reviews, the participants turned to a number of related issues of concern to ACEC member firms, including major investment study integration, single-firm selection for environmental and design work, and design-build contracting. A third session hosted by FHWA will take place October 28 in Portland, OR. For more information, contact Chip Wallace (cwallace@acec.org) at ACEC.