News

Project Update
Total projects received at MBEX from 3/16/20 – 3/20/20: 103
Total project leads reported on at MBEX from 3/16/20 – 3/20/20: 29
Total active projects received/reported on at MBEX as of 3/24/20: 431

MBEX + COVID-19
In light of the escalating need for caution with COVID-19, we have released a formal statement on the suspension of our events and how we plan to move forward. We will closely monitor this situation and will comply with any city, county and federal level recommendations. You can view the document on page 3 of this Bulletin or at www.mbex.org/COVID. Thank you for your continued support of MBEX.

MBEX Offices Closed
While we have made the difficult decision to close our Minneapolis and Duluth offices until April 1, rest assured that MBEX staff are working remotely to continue serving our members. Our online plan room remains available to our member companies 24/7. If you have any questions during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Volunteer Forklift Driver Needed
Second Harvest Heartland provides food to those in need and currently seeks the help of experienced and certified volunteer forklift drivers. Forklift drivers will help move their food distribution operations to a new hunger-relief center in Brooklyn Park, MN. Volunteers are needed Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to move products from Maplewood to Brooklyn Park. Contact Paige Stein at pstein@2harvest.org or at 651-209-7953 for an application or for more information.

MBEX 2020 Spring Social CANCELLED
For the safety of our members, board of directors, past presidents and staff, the MBEX executive board has opted to cancel the 2020 Spring Social. We appreciate your continued support of MBEX and hope to see you at our next event. All paid tickets will be refunded promptly. Please view our COVID-19 statement at www.mbex.org/COVID or on page 3 of this bulletin for more information.

2020-2021 MBEX Scholarship
With the help of The Builders Group (TBG), our donating partner, the Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX) will award multiple scholarships, totaling $30,000, with a top award amount of $5,000, to qualifying students. Information about these scholarships can be found online at www.mbex.org/scholarship. Applications will be available in April. Bookmark our scholarship page today! Information requests can be made to Jill Gerwig at 612-381-2631. Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2020.

Safeguard YOUR Membership!
All members of the Minnesota Builders Exchange are encouraged to help protect their membership by ensuring that only direct employees of their company utilize the benefits of membership. Individual memberships must be established for separate companies. Please keep in mind that the sharing of project documents, login credentials and any other MBEX-related information directly violates both our organization’s Bylaws and User Agreement. It is in your best interest to avoid jeopardizing your membership by not allowing others to take advantage of a service your company has paid for.

News Continued
Please visit page 2 of this bulletin for more news.
**NEWS continued...**

**Interns Available**
MBEX has been supplied with a “virtual job fair” pdf document containing resumes of students currently enrolled in the Construction and Facility Management Program at the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education seeking internships. If your company is interested in viewing these resumes, please email jills@mbex.org. Feel free to contact the students directly, as they have given permission to do so. Please contact Peter Hilger, Faculty Director/FM Program coordinator at 612-868-3636 or aphilger@umn.edu with questions or to be added to the database for future intern emails.

**Local Association COVID-19 Updates**
Many local associations recently announced new policies in place during the COVID-19 outbreak. View a compilation of these documents at www.mbex.org/industry-COVID. We welcome all member companies and associations to send us your changes and policy updates. For more information on COVID-19 policies within the state of Minnesota and the steps taken to protect your business, be sure to check out the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development page at www.mn.gov/deed.

**Construction Industry Survey**
Per the request of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, MBEX sent out a short survey to all member companies on Monday March 23, 2020. The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis has requested all member companies complete the survey to properly assist the Federal Reserve in gauging the economic effects of COVID-19 on the construction sector of Minnesota. This survey will be an ongoing effort to provide the Federal Reserve System a better understanding of how this outbreak is affecting individual firms and the construction sector more broadly.

**Request from Construction Associations to Governor Walz**
The Minnesota Builders Exchange, along with partnering construction-based associations, support a letter drafted for Governor Walz urging him to recognize construction as an essential service that should be continued during this time. The impact of shutting down construction work in Minnesota will have a severe impact on the state’s infrastructure and housing. We will continue to encourage all members to implement strict safety precautions during this pandemic. Please take a moment to read the full document on pages 4 and 5 of this bulletin.

**Adding your company to bidders lists: Generals**
All MBEX members have the ability to add their company to a bidders list on any project posted on mbex.org. As our project information is highly sensitive, please take special care when adding your company to bidder/planholder lists. For example, general contractors intending to bid projects with an assigned Construction Manager or Selected General (listed as part of "Owner/Design Team") should specify their category of work using the dropdown selection menu, rather than list themselves as a General. Questions? Give us a call at 612-381-2620.

**Got News?**
We’d love to hear it! Please send your company hires, news, events and press releases to jills@mbex.org

**MINORITY NOTICES**

**Attention TGB Subcontractors & Suppliers**
Morcon Construction Co Inc will be submitting a bid on the following project and invites you to submit your subcontractor and/or supplier quotations to us: Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center – Misc Roof Replacement (Project # 55AK0036). Bid closes March 31, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. For information regarding any of our current projects, please contact our main office at 763-546-6066 or visit our plan room at www.morcon.com. Morcon Construction Co Inc, 5151 Industrial Blvd NE, Fridley, MN 55421; phone: 763-546-6066, fax: 763-546-3129. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

**Attention SBE/MBE/WBE/ Subcontractors & Suppliers**
Lametti & Sons Inc is submitting bids for the following projects: City of St. Paul Event # 907 – 2020 City Pipe Bursting. Bid Closes: April 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. For information regarding specific jobs and any assistance you may need, please contact: Dave Lovas in our office 651-426-1380 or quotes@lametti.com . Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Dear MBEX family and friends,

The health and safety of our staff, board of directors, members and event attendees is our top priority at the Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX). As an organization, we closely monitor COVID-19, along with any city, county and federal level recommendations and mandates.

Thus, it is with a heavy heart that we announce the suspension of all MBEX meetings and events through April 15, 2020. We appreciate your patience in this time of uncertainty.

Currently, MBEX using recommended hygiene protocols in the office and will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the CDC. As situations continue to change, MBEX will promptly update our business practices and work policies. For all members wishing to visit our two Minnesota locations, please keep in mind that we will be closed until March 31 and will re-open on April 1. All blueprint orders are suspended until April 1 as well.

For any information regarding COVID-19 and how to proceed, please utilize the following links and webpages:

- OSHA: [Guidance on Prepping Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Business and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- CDC: [Daily Updates on COVID-19](#)

To remain informed on future MBEX events and news updates, bookmark mbex.org today, as we will share additional updates as needed via our website.

Thank you for being part of our plan and for your understanding. Let’s all work together to stay as safe as possible in the coming weeks.

Tom Getzke
Executive Director
March 23, 2020

The Honorable Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

Thank you for your efforts during this current public health crisis. We recognize and sincerely appreciate your leadership and the work of your staff and those who are spending every hour to keep Minnesotans safe during this time. You have always understood the importance of construction to the state’s economy and we hope you will recognize the need to continue in a safe manner that follows best practices and implements the OSHA guidelines.

Members of the Minnesota construction industry are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. The undersigned organizations represent many of the general contractors, specialty contractors, associates, and suppliers that employ the more than 150,000 Minnesotans who work in the construction industry. We write to you today to ask you to treat construction as an essential service for the state and refrain from any action to curtail ongoing construction projects. As higher risk industries are being impacted by the spread of COVID-19, it is more important to the long-term health of Minnesota’s economy to keep the construction industry intact.

Based on input from the CDC, OSHA has developed a hierarchy of industry risk for COVID-19. The lowest risk industries are those with workers that have “minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.” Construction jobsites are not densely populated work areas. Construction sites are a unique workplace with their own levels of “social distancing” built in. Many workers are segregated completely or separated by large distances. Access to jobsites is strictly controlled with the public kept out. Additionally, safety briefings are
already part of the construction industry culture, and with the additional guidelines developed by OSHA to address COVID-19, briefings include the extra precautions recommended by the CDC and OSHA.

The impact of shutting down construction work in Minnesota will severely impact the construction of critical infrastructure and housing. Worker layoffs will make it extremely difficult for construction companies to meet the demand to maintain existing healthcare facilities and build new ones, retrofit existing buildings for emergency use and providing new transportation corridors for people and materials. Moreover, such a hit to the construction industry workforce in Minnesota will undermine current and future efforts of recovery due to natural disasters. A virus pandemic does not halt tornadoes or floods.

Our associations have encouraged all of our members to implement strict measures for the safety of their workers and the public during this pandemic. We’ve distributed OSHA 2290 guidance on preparing the workplace in light of COVID-19 and encouraged worker education. With the low risk nature of construction related to the virus and the existing heavy emphasis on safety in our industry to implement protections for workers and the public, we urge you to recognize construction as essential services that should be continued during this time.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors of MN/ND
Housing First Minnesota
Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association
Minnesota Builders Exchange
Minnesota Electrical Association
Minnesota Utility Contractors Association