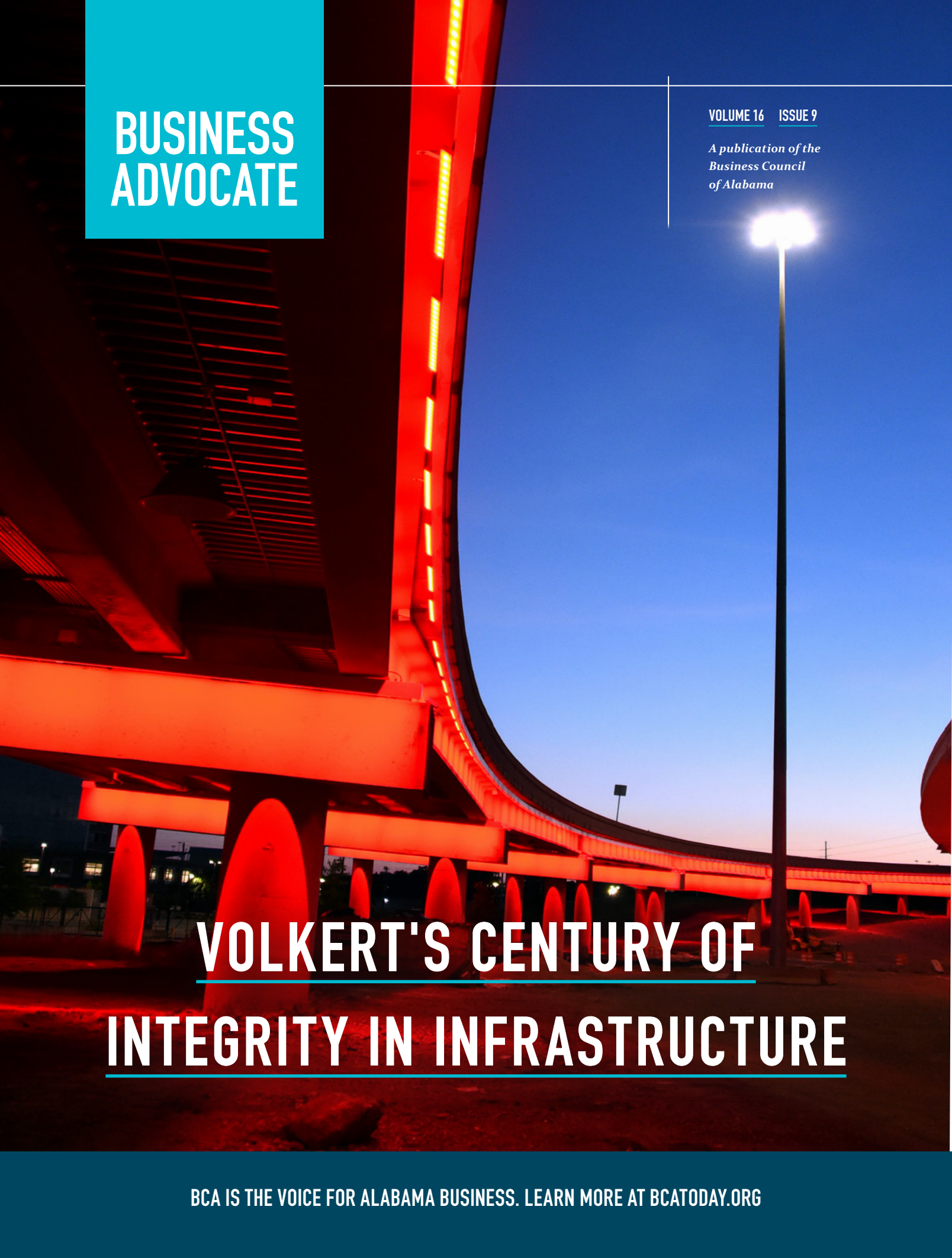




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VOLKERT'S CENTURY OF INTEGRITY IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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VOLKERT'S CENTURY OF INTEGRITY IN INFRASTRUCTURE

For a century, a Mobile-headquartered engineering firm has shaped the infrastructure that moves people, powers industry, and fuels billions in economic growth across Alabama.

Founded in New Orleans in 1925, Volkert quickly established itself as a key player in the South. But it was in Alabama that the company truly took root.

By 1926, the firm had opened an office in Mobile to support its work on the Mobile Bay Causeway bridges. Two decades later, following extensive work at the Port of Mobile during World War II, Volkert relocated its headquarters to the Port City, a move that would define the firm's next 100 years in Alabama.

Over the past century, Volkert has gained recognition for its contributions to some of the country's most significant infrastructure projects, including flood-control initiatives along the Mississippi River and the design of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, which remains the world's longest continuous bridge over water.

BUILDING ALABAMA'S INFRASTRUCTURE BACKBONE

As the post-war economy surged and the interstate system took shape in the 1950s and 1960s, Volkert



EARLY CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE I-59/20 BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT IN BIRMINGHAM

was repeatedly called upon to lead some of Alabama's most vital and economically significant transportation projects.

In Huntsville, the company helped design Interstate 565, completed in 1991. At the time, it was the largest ALDOT project in history, involving 36 separate construction contracts and more than six miles of bridges. Today, I-565 carries over 100,000 vehicles daily, linking Redstone Arsenal, Cummings Research Park, and North Alabama's growing industrial, defense, and tech hubs to broader markets.

Farther south, the I-10 Bayway, also known as the Jubilee Parkway, opened in 1978 and remains one of the longest bridges in the United States. As a key connector between Mobile and Baldwin Counties, it plays a vital role in freight movement and regional commuting.

In Birmingham, Volkert led the replacement of the I-59/20 Central

Business District bridge, completed in 2020. The project was recognized with statewide and national engineering honors, partly because it balanced safety and mobility with sensitivity to the surrounding urban landscape.

And along Corridor X, now I-22, Volkert helped create a direct interstate connection between Birmingham and Memphis.

Across Alabama, the pattern is clear: improved infrastructure leads to increased mobility, better safety, and accelerated development. Industrial parks fill. Logistics hubs expand. Tourism becomes more accessible. And communities, large and small, benefit from the momentum.

BEYOND VOLKERT'S ROOTS

Since those early days, the company has expanded from 14 employees to hundreds more.

Today, Volkert is 100% employee-



FINAL DESIGN OF I-22 AT 7,500 FEET WEST OF I-65 TO US-31 SOUTH OF FINLEY AVE AND NORTH THROUGH THE US-31 INTERCHANGE AT FULTONDALE

MartinFed

owned and has over 1,700 professionals in 60+ offices.

"Volkert now has employees in over 25 states, and many of them are able to share in the work of delivering its biggest projects," said Steven James, the company's vice president of marketing and communications. "Experts from all over the company are working on teams for projects like the new Mobile River Bridge and the new Bayway."

The company's national footprint allows it to leverage deep expertise and specialized resources on local projects. Volkert's professionals, from traffic and environmental specialists to structural and construction engineering teams, regularly collaborate across state lines. Still, its Alabama roots remain central to its identity.

"Volkert's growth and success over the years are attributable to its many partnerships in Alabama, primarily in the public sector," said

James. "Among its longest-term partnerships are those with Alabama's cities, counties, and state agencies. Those experiences for-

State-level investments in talent, infrastructure, and competitiveness reinforce that spirit of partnership.

"AMONG ITS LONGEST-TERM PARTNERSHIPS ARE THOSE WITH ALABAMA'S CITIES, COUNTIES, AND STATE AGENCIES. THOSE EXPERIENCES FORMED THE FOUNDATION FOR WHAT IS NOW A NATIONWIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PRACTICE."

-STEVEN JAMES, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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WHY ALABAMA?

Alabama's collaborative business climate is a key component of Volkert's success story.

James nodded to Alabama's consistent support for industry-driving values as a reason the state remains an ideal home for Volkert.

From investing in strong STEM education pipelines, such as those at the Alabama School of Math and



CHOCTAW POINT CONTAINER TERMINAL DREDGING, LAND RECLAMATION, AND SITE STABILIZATION PROJECT IN MOBILE

Science and engineering programs at state universities, to enacting policy commitments like Rebuild Alabama, the state has positioned itself as a partner in growth.

Perhaps most importantly, James pointed to the business climate: "The state has created a regulatory and legislative environment that allows businesses to thrive."

As Alabama continues to position itself for long-term economic success, infrastructure remains at the center of the conversation, and Volkert continues to help lead the way.

James pointed to several projects already shaping the next decade:

- I-22, which opened in 2016 and is spurring growth in northwest Alabama.
- The West Alabama Highway, connecting Mobile to Tuscaloosa, is opening up new freight corridors.
- The South Alabama Megaspine is now home to Novelis, a transformative investment for the region.
- Ongoing incentives that support major manufacturers like Airbus and Austal.
- And the expansion of the Port of Mobile, including the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility in Montgo-

mery, where Volkert serves as construction manager.

THE NEXT 100 YEARS

As Volkert celebrates 100 years, it's looking to the future with the same values that shaped its past.

The company calls it "a century of integrity in infrastructure." In practice, that has meant designing the bridges and roads that keep factories humming, visitors moving, and communities growing.

Even after a century, James said, "Some things never change: the commitment to our core values of quality, service, ethics, and safety. That's what got us to 100."

Volkert has helped build Alabama. Now it's helping build what comes next.

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, a non-partisan, statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly 1 million working Alabamians through its member companies and its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama. For more information on the Business Council of Alabama, please contact us at (334) 834-6000 or visit us online at bcatoday.org.