



# Diversity Matters!

APRIL 2012

## IDOT & Tollway Participate in Public Informational Meetings on Disparity Study

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Tollway) recently participated in a public informational meeting to address concerns about the statewide Disparity Study, which was released in Fall 2011. Illinois State Representative LaShawn K. Ford moderated the meeting, which was well attended by prominent African American and Hispanic entrepreneurs. Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider and Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi LeFleur were also in attendance. Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. (MTA) conducted the study for both agencies, and presented a detailed overview of their methodology and disparity study findings. MTA analyzed the availability of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to perform on IDOT contracts in contrast with the number of DBE firms that actually received contracts and performed services. The joint Disparity Study pointed out the many hurdles the two agencies and the transportation industry face together in improving and expanding project participation opportunities for DBEs across Illinois. To this end, beginning with the moment Governor Quinn took office in 2009, the Quinn administration and IDOT have worked together closely under state and federal laws to implement new and improved initiatives designed to increase DBE participation on IDOT projects throughout Illinois.

## Tuskegee Airmen to be Honored at IDOT

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will recognize the Tuskegee Airmen for the fighter group's valiant service to the United States during World War II as part of the 2012 Ethics in the Workplace seminar set to take place on June 26 in Chicago. Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and other state and local officials recently dedicated the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail to celebrate the Airmen's commitment to the nation. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, sponsored by Rep. Marlowe Colvin (D-Chicago), the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail has been designated along the stretch of Interstate 57 between Exit 339 at Sauk Trail Road and Exit 358 at Wentworth Avenue in Chicago.

"It is important to recognize our men and women who sacrificed so much to defend our rights," said Governor Quinn. "Their service to our country will always be remembered." Formally known as the 332nd Fighter Group, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first group of black pilots to fly for the U.S. military. Overcoming prejudice and discrimination, this elite group played an integral role in the Allied victory in World War II. The unit flew more than 15,000 combat sorties for more than 1,500 missions and by the end of the war had earned more than 900 citations, including 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses. "The story of what these pilots accomplished and endured is nothing short of amazing," Secretary Schneider said. "Their ability to overcome

discrimination and hardships to fight and fly for our country is one of the most difficult, yet remarkable stories of the U.S. military. It is for this reason that we are so incredibly grateful to honor these pilots at our upcoming seminar. We hope their character will inspire and demonstrate the importance that ethics and character play in our daily lives." The Ethics in the Workplace seminar is designed to remind and educate employees of the benefits of making good ethical decisions. For future updates about the Ethics in the Workplace event, please visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/oqcr/ethicsworkplace.html>. For a copy of the resolution, visit <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/Tuskegee%20Airmen%20Memorial%20Trail/HJ0028.pdf>.

## IDOT Recognized for Work on Mississippi River Bridge

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) are proud co-recipients of the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award for the work on the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) Diversity Program. The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Metropolitan St. Louis Chapter made the announcement recently at the Engineer's Club in St. Louis. The award recognizes both departments for continually striving to improve opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses in the transportation industry, and for

proactively developing and preparing qualified minority contractors and workers for the construction phase of the MRB projects. "IDOT was honored to accept this award. We have worked really hard in the Metro East area and throughout Illinois to try to improve opportunities for minorities and women in contracting and the workplace," Secretary Ann L. Schneider said. "With the coming construction season, we will rededicate ourselves to the goal of maximizing minority participation in both workforce and contracting areas on Mississippi River Bridge projects

and elsewhere throughout the state." The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award honors individuals and organizations for promoting diversity, inclusiveness, and multicultural awareness within their organizations, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS. The award is named after Rosa Parks, the African American woman who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala. in 1955. Her action led to new public transit laws and helped launch the modern American Civil Rights movement.

## IDOT Highlights Program Geared to Aiding Veterans in Obtaining Commercial Drivers License

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are working together to encourage more veterans from underutilized populations to take advantage of the opportunities available to obtain a Commercial Drivers License, Class A (CDL-A) and one of the required endorsements. The license is required in order to apply and take the test for any IDOT Highway Maintainer position.

The CDL Statewide Training Program will focus on increasing the number of eligible veterans from underutilized populations on the Central Manage-

ment Services (CMS) Eligibility List. Eligibility requires a CDL-A with an N (tanker) or X (hazardous materials) Endorsement.

Upon successful completion, program participants will be able to take the Highway Maintainer test and pursue placement on the CMS Eligibility List. The new program approach is a direct result of information received from veterans attending IDOT Veteran Resource Fairs and other veteran outreach events across the state during the past year.

IDOT and ICCB are partnering to provide the training program with a goal

to increase the number of underutilized veterans on the CMS Eligibility List from areas where the numbers are the lowest. ICCB will manage the program with participating community colleges throughout the state to provide CDL training and a review to aid veterans who wish to take the Highway Maintainer test. The program will provide training to approximately 75-100 veteran participants across the state. The program will officially launch in April. For more information contact Lavon Nelson of ICCB at (217) 557-2742 or email at [lavon.nelson@illinois.gov](mailto:lavon.nelson@illinois.gov).

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
4/4	Lewis and Clark CC 2012 Job Fair 9:00-12:00	Lewis and Clark CC 5800 Godfrey Road Godfrey, IL	Alice Bunjan (618) 468-5500
4/4	Veteran/Military Job Fair 10:00-2:00	Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Ctr., Bldg. 4, Room 102, Bourke Hall, 3001 Green Bay Rd., North Chicago, IL	Gerard Metoyer <a href="mailto:Gerard.metoyer@navy.mil">Gerard.metoyer@navy.mil</a>
4/9	IDVA/American Legion Post 214 Veteran Opportunity and Info Day 9:00-3:00	American Legion Post 214 109 S. Prairie St. Bethalto, IL 62010	Ed Barnes (618) 258-9860 <a href="mailto:Ed.barnes@illinois.gov">Ed.barnes@illinois.gov</a>
4/12	Scott AFB Military/ Veteran Career Fair	Scott AFB, Scott AFB, IL	Rose Hill <a href="mailto:Rose.hill@us.af.mil">Rose.hill@us.af.mil</a>

To view a complete schedule of workshops offered by the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, please visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/workshop.html>.

## IDOT Announces Current Openings for Bids

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announces current opportunities open for bid:

- The Illinois Department of Central Management Services on behalf of the Illinois Department of Transportation is issuing an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Mower/Brush Cutters. The selected vendor(s) shall provide 3- Rotary style Mounted, Mower/Brush Cutters.

This IFB is not Small Business Set-Aside and does not contain a BEP Utilization goal.

- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting a proposal for the Condition Rating Survey (CRS) Data Collection Services. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will allow IDOT to select a vendor capable of providing the equipment, vehicles, technologies,

cameras, laser, software, and workstations. This will provide IDOT with the pavement condition data, images, measurements for prioritizing highway needs and projects in the development of the Highway Improvement Program and other uses of the pavement data.

To register or for more information about procurement opportunities, visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at [www.purchase.state.il.us](http://www.purchase.state.il.us).

## Notice of April Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for the April letting, which is scheduled for April 27, 2012. With more than \$275 million in road construction projects anticipated for the April letting, the 2012 construction season is shaping up to be another busy one. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.