

Upcoming Events

September 16th

DBE Certification
Session Event
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
D-1 DBE Resource Ctr
900 S Des Plaines St
Chicago, IL
Contact:
Kevin Hayes
(312) 277-1700

September 25th

DBE Certification/
Prequalification
Contact:
Theo Joyner
(312) 419-7260

September 25th

How to Effectively
Market Your Business
10:00 am - 1:00pm
River Valley Metro Ctr
1137 E. 5000 North Rd
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
Contact:
Theo Joyner
(312) 419-7260

September 30th

Electronic Bidding
Training
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
EIGERlab
605 Fulton Ave
Rockford, IL
Contact:
Minal Hahm
(312) 419-7260

For a complete list of
events, visit [http://www.
diversity.dot.illinois.gov/
event_calendar.aspx](http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx)



Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

August/September 2013

IDOT Announces Public Meetings to Plan Future Transportation Program

Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider announced that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will seek early input into the development of its upcoming Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2015-2020. Informational and feedback sessions will be held in communities throughout the state.

The public meetings will be held statewide to give residents and businesses in each respective area a chance to better understand and weigh in on project priorities over the next five to seven years.

Public meetings will be conducted informally, with no formal presentation planned. IDOT staff will be present to answer any questions related to the multi-modal program, planning and project development process. The public will have an opportunity to comment in writing on the development of the proposed MYP, existing programming procedures and other information.

IDOT also will present the latest developments on the first ever statewide Illinois Bicycle Transportation Plan. This long-range planning document will guide future policy

decisions and infrastructure improvements to make cycling a safer, more convenient, and more accessible transportation option for Illinois residents and visitors. For more information on the Illinois State Bike Plan, please visit www.illinoisbikeplan.com.

Comment sheets will be provided for those in attendance who wish to provide a written statement on the MYP and the statewide bicycle plan. For a complete list of meetings statewide, please visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/outreach/outreach.html>.

Get On Board Event Set for October

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program is pleased to announce the second "GET-on-BOARD", a business-to-business exchange for the freight rail industry and CREATE partners. The event will be held on October 16, 2013, at the Ford Chicago Assembly Plant, 126th at Torrence Ave, Chicago, IL - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This CREATE business networking event will connect rail industry executives, government transportation agency heads, and prime contractors with disadvantaged, minority, and women owned firms seeking contracting and sub-contracting opportunities in engineering, design,

construction, and support services with CREATE and other rail projects planned for Illinois.

CREATE is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the United States Department of Transportation, the state of Illinois, city of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, and the nation's freight railroads. A project of national significance, CREATE will invest billions in critically needed improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for Chicago-area residents.

In addition to CREATE, Illinois is receiving more than \$1.3 billion in federal capital monies, matched by a commitment of about \$180 million in state

funds, to build a high-speed passenger rail network that will connect Chicago to St. Louis and intermediate cities. The current project will reduce travel times by one hour, and planning is under way for additional improvements.

Please mark your calendars to come meet with industry leaders and top government officials to explore upcoming business contracting and procurement opportunities in the rail industry.

If you are a certified and experienced DBE/MBE/WBE, please make sure you visit www.createprogram.org for more information, updates, and pre-registration details. Space is limited.

IDOT Announces Current Procurement Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.

IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program Expands



The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Office of Business & Workforce Diversity's Bureau of Small Business Enterprises (SBE) continues to grow the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) with the addition of two new community colleges.

In August, IDOT added the South Suburban College and the Black Hawk College for a total of 12 colleges administering the program.

In collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration, IDOT initiated HCCTP in late 2009, in an effort to increase access to highway construction jobs for minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals. The HCCTP emphasizes life-long learning and provides opportunities for further

education and assistance to improve employability in Illinois' highway construction industry. The program is administered by the Illinois Community College Board and now implemented through 12 community colleges throughout the state.

Each community college holds 8 to 12 week training sessions, totaling 450 hours per session of intensive training in highway construction-related skills, such as mathematics for the trades, job site readiness, carpentry, concrete flatwork, blueprint reading orientation, introduction to tools, forklift operation

and Occupational Safety and Health Association 10 certification, etc.

Each community college provides its graduates with one year of follow-up assistance in obtaining placement in Illinois' highway construction trade unions, apprenticeship programs and/or with IDOT highway construction contractors. Currently, the program has graduated over 760 graduates statewide and is dedicated to increasing the number of skilled minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals in the transportation construction industry.



Students Get Jump Start On Transportation Careers at National Summer Transportation Institute

This summer, approximately 30 Illinois high school students studied all aspects of transportation engineering – land, water, air – by participating in the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI).

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) 2013 program is one of five states to pilot NSTI with a focus on aviation. This new emphasis is made possible through funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Aviation Administration, a partnership forged to ensure aviation takes a premier role in the summer institute.

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is the host site, and is supported by the UIC CHANCE Program, College of Engineering and College of Education; with support from community based

provider Project SYNCERE and the Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. The ACE Academy component added week-long aviation activities with tours of O'Hare Airport and flight training at the Chicago Executive Airport.

NSTI was created to promote awareness of educational and career opportunities among disadvantaged and at-risk middle and high school students around the country. FHWA is the funding and governing agency which formally established the program as a recognized educational initiative in 1998. IDOT is responsible for providing technical assistance, guidance, training and support to the Illinois program being hosted at UIC.

The Institute began July 8th and ended August 2nd. The students met over four weeks, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The comprehensive curriculum consisted of professional development presentations, field trips, hands-on activities; engineering, English and math instruction, as well as the opportunity to reside on campus (during ACE Academy week).

Students applying to the program had to be a rising high school sophomore or junior, have a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. (on a 4.0 scale) and submit a statement showing a sincere interest in the transportation industry.

Mississippi River Bridge Project Snapshot

One of the goals of the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) project is to create a diverse job site contractor workforce. Since the start of the bridge project, minorities and women have averaged a record rate of participation each week. As of August 28, 2013, minorities represent 25.8% and women represent 3.6% of the overall workforce on the bridge project. For more information, please visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.