



Diversity Matters!

JULY 2011

IDOT Gets Construction Workers Ready for Employment

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) **Highway Construction Careers Training Program** (HCCTP) is off and running in its first full year of training and placing minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals into the highway construction trades. The program is managed by IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity's Bureau of Small Business Enterprises, with the Illinois Community College Board directly overseeing the participating community colleges. The program aims to increase the total number of historically underutilized individuals working on Illinois Department of Transportation highway construction projects. Each college assists trainees to become placed into Illinois' highway construction trade unions, apprenticeship programs and/or with IDOT highway construction contractors. During the 8 to 10 week training sessions, the trainees are taught highway construction-related skills, including math for the trades, job readiness, technical skills coursework such as carpentry, blueprint reading and OSHA 10 certification. With the 2011 highway construction season under way, IDOT is encouraging its contractors to hire its program trainees after graduation. The colleges already have more than 100 individuals trained and ready to become productive entry-level highway construction workers.

For a list of participating colleges and additional information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/hccta.html>.

IDOT Hires Summer Workers

More than 300 students from all over the state are spending the summer working at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

In June, IDOT hired a total of 375 students for the Summer Program, which includes 219

non-engineering and 156 engineering office and field positions.

IDOT's Summer Program is designed to give Engineering and Non-Engineering students an opportunity to gain on-the-job training and supplement

IDOT staff during the busiest project season of the year. Information about the Summer Program was posted in all nine IDOT District headquarters and the agency's Central Office, located in Springfield. The Summer Program ends August 31, 2011.

Target Market Program: Passage of New Standards

The state's Target Market Program has undergone significant legislative changes designed to improve results on diversity goals and more effectively address disparity in contract participation and equity. The legislative changes now await action by Governor Pat Quinn. The Illinois General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1923 in May,

amending Chapter 20, Section 2705 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes to require the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and its Chief Procurement Officer to review all evidence of racial and gender discrimination pertaining to the Target Market Program. The chief sponsors are Senator Toi W. Hutchinson and Representative

William Davis. Senate co-sponsors are Jacqueline Y. Collins, Mattie Hunter, Kwame Raoul and Martin A. Sandoval. House co-sponsors are Cynthia Soto, Edward J. Acevedo, Elizabeth Hernandez, Maria Antonia Berrios, Lisa M. Dugan, Derrick Smith and Monique D. Davis. For full-text of the legislation, visit <http://www.ilga.gov/>.

IDOT Legislative Update at a Glance

House Bill 1256 –This legislation creates the Diversity in Engineering Scholarship Program at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). As a part of this legislation, IDOT may award up to \$7,500 per student per academic year in scholarships for up to 20 eligible students. HB 1256 now awaits the Governor's signature.

Senate Resolution 199 –SR 199 urges the Illinois Department of Transportation and

Capital Development Board to review their bonding requirements for Minority and Women Business Enterprise participants. The resolution requires IDOT and CDB to examine the number of defaults by Minority and Women Business Enterprise companies in particular over the last 5 years. The amendment to SR 199 was adopted on May 27.

House Bill 2987 – This legislation provides that a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) may

be placed on state funded projects and sets forth goals for apprenticeship and total hours to be performed by minorities and females. IDOT will file a quarterly report of the success of the PLA workforce participation by minorities and females with the Department of Labor. HB 2987 now awaits the Governor's signature. For full-text of the legislation, visit <http://www.ilga.gov/>.

Office of Business and Workforce Diversity (OBWD)

Releases Summer 2011 Newsletter

To get additional information about IDOT events and opportunities available, please take a look at OBWD's latest newsletter at

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/obwd/DIVERSITYnewsSummer%202011.pdf>.

Mississippi River Bridge Projects on June Letting

Construction is expected to begin on four new Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) projects this year. The construction projects, which were on the June 17, 2011 letting, total more than \$55 million. The projects are expected to create more than 100 direct construction jobs and support more than 600 additional jobs through expected economic development.

The four MRB projects on the June 17, 2011 letting included:

- \$4.5 million contract to construct lighting for the entire MRB project. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal on this contract is 20 percent.

- \$35 million contract to construct a new bridge and retaining walls on relocated I-70 from 2nd Street to I-55/70. The DBE goal on this contract is 20 percent.

- \$9.5 million grading and drainage contract on relocated I-70 from 1st Street to

Industrial Drive. The DBE goal on this contract is 15 percent.

- \$6.5 million contract for a new bridge and embankment on relocated I-70 over 1st street.

The DBE goal on this contract is 20 percent.

The four projects, totaling \$55.5 million, are all state funded and demonstrate the Department's commitment to enhancing minority participation in state-funded projects.

So far, 95 different Illinois and Missouri-certified DBE companies have received 162 contracts to provide nearly \$74 million in design or construction services on MRB projects. In Illinois alone, there have been 83 contracts worth nearly \$24 million awarded to DBE firms. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has met or exceeded DBE goals on all MRB projects with an average of 18 percent. Between Illinois and Missouri, there are 31 construction projects needed to build the MRB. To date, 19 projects have been awarded and are either completed or under construc-

tion.

As of March 31st, the overall workforce utilization on MRB projects is 23.7 percent minority and 4.6 percent female. The federal workforce participation goals for the MRB project area are 14.7 percent minority and 6.9 percent female. IDOT will continue to work closely with contractors and unions in an effort to ensure all federal workforce goals are met or exceeded.

The MRB project is a joint undertaking by the Illinois and Missouri Departments of Transportation to provide congestion relief across the region, especially on the Poplar Street Bridge.

The entire project will cost a total of \$749 million and is being funded through a combination of federal and state funds. The MRB project is expected to be completed in January, 2014. For more information about the MRB project, visit www.newriverbridge.org.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
7/14/11	CDL One-Stop Shop Veterans' Resource Fair	301 River Park Drive East St. Louis, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545
7/14/11	Plan Review DBE Supportive Services workshops	D-1 DBE Resource Center 900 S. Des Plaines, Chicago	Pete Stresino 630-529-8000
7/14/11	One-Stop Shop Veterans' Resource Fair	6755 State Street East St. Louis, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545
7/15/11	Veterans' Resource Fair	1900 W. Van Buren Chicago, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545
7/19/11	Veterans' Fair	704 N. Hickory Champaign, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545
7/20/11	Veterans' Resource Fair	1120 S. Milwaukee, Room V366 Vernon Hills, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545
7/26/11	Wheeling AmVets Post 66 Veterans Job Fair	700 McHenry Road Wheeling, IL	Tony Altieri 847-537-0440
7/28/11	One-Stop Shop Veterans' Resource Fair	212 E. Williams Street Danville, IL	Alma Collins 217-782-2545

IDOT Proud to Administer Program to Provide Safe Transportation to Elderly and Citizens with Disabilities

Since the mid-1980s the IDOT Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation has assured quality paratransit vehicles for use by private not-for-profit agencies and certified public agencies to serve the elderly and citizens with disabilities.

IDOT is the agency designated by the Governor to administer the 49 USC Section 5310 Transportation Assistance Grant Program.

Paratransit vehicles are equipped with tested access and seating systems, inspected for long, safe service, and purchased at the best prices through competitive bidding from leading manufacturers. The vehicles are purchased with either 100 percent federal funding or 80 percent federal and a 20 percent state match.

Applications are available annually each Fall and are scored on the quality of the specific programs including safety and utilization, vehicle

maintenance, driver training, and Human Services Transportation Coordination with other local service providers.

Currently, more than 250 agencies are required to coordinate with other agencies in the areas served to assure the most availability for those in need.

For more information about the program, visit <http://www.dot.state.il.us/dpit/5310-3.07.pdf>

Current Procurement Opportunities

Multi-Year Plan Outreach Consultant Program – The Illinois Department of Transportation seeks a vendor for coordinating, conducting, and monitoring a new outreach program. This initiative's priority is to seek input from the general public and local government officials as to their concerns and insights about potential highway needs and priorities within their areas, those of which are included in the Department's Proposed Multi-Year Highway Improvement Program.

District 2 Electrical Services – This is an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to establish a contract with an electrical contractor to repair, provide parts/supplies and labor for District 2's facilities/locations that have electrical problems. These are problems discovered during routine inspection, equipment break down, improper operations or occupant complaint.

For more information, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.