

Upcoming Events



Illinois Department of Transportation Diversity Matters!

October 2013

October 30th

Understanding Financial Statements and Cash Flows Workshop

5:00 pm - 7:00pm
2801 W Murphysboro Rd
Carbondale, IL 62903
Contact:
Debra Lee
debra.lee@illinois.gov

November 4th

DBE Certification Workshop
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
D4 DBE Resource Ctr
401 Main St
Peoria, IL
Contact:
Felicia Smith-Campbell
felicia.smith-campbell@illinois.gov

November 5th-6th

Meet & Greet (RSVP Required)
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
IDOT Central Office
2300 S Dirksen Pkwy
Springfield, Illinois
Contact:
Chery Cathey
Cheryl.Cathey@illinois.gov

November 12th

Bidding as a Prime Workshop
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
2801 W Murphysboro Rd
Carbondale, IL 62903
Contact:
Debra Lee
debra.lee@illinois.gov

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

Illiana Corridor Project One Step Closer to Reality

On October 17, a vote passed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's MPO Policy Committee project to include the Illiana Corridor Project on the priority list in the GO TO 2040 Plan.

The vote by the committee, which is chaired by Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and comprised of members from throughout the Chicago region, means the Illiana project is eligible for federal funding and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) can proceed to obtain bids from the private sector.

The Illiana will be a 47-mile, access-controlled highway that extends from I-55 in

Illinois on the west to I-65 in Indiana on the east. When built, the Illiana Corridor Project will be an invaluable regional asset for the south suburbs, the state and the broader Midwest, promoting and supporting the business environment, workforce, local and global economy and quality of life. Potential economic benefits include the creation of more than 9,000 construction jobs and 28,000 long-term jobs.

Illinois and the Indiana Departments of Transportation (INDOT) have been engaged in planning the Illiana with the Federal Highway Administration since the

spring of 2011. The preferred corridor for the limited access, four-lane toll road is being refined and discussed, with a public hearing on the proposed location later this year. Additional public input on the project will be sought during the state and federal agency and public-private partnership approval process. The Illiana planning process is expected to be complete early 2014.

IDOT and INDOT will soon begin the process of selecting a private team to finance and build the Illiana Corridor Project, the first public-private partnership of its kind in Illinois.

Loan Program to Boost Minority- and Female-Owned Businesses

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is seeking applications for its new Disadvantaged Business Revolving Loan Program.

The low-interest loan program, signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn, provides capital necessary for properly certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to finance IDOT project-specific work, acquire valuable work experience and establish or rebuild credit lines.

In July, Governor Quinn signed House Bill 3267

into law creating the Disadvantaged Business Revolving Loan Program. Under House Bill 3267, sponsored by State Representative William Davis (D-Homewood) and State Senator Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago), the program allows IDOT to make low-interest loans to minority- and female-owned businesses that are certified in the Illinois Unified Certification Program and are participating in construction contracts with the agency. Many of these firms are small

and lack the ability to obtain the lines of credit necessary to secure the bonding and capital equipment financing needed for state construction projects.

An initial state investment of \$3 million will start the revolving loan program, which is subject to annual appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly.

To apply and obtain more information, please visit www.dot.il.gov/doingbusiness/dbe/revolvingloan.html.

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.

Save The Date: Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward DBE Conference

The Office of Business and Workforce Diversity (OBWD) will soon open up registration for the 2014 Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward Conference (TCTR), and this year will be full of surprises in honor of the event's 25th anniversary.

The statewide event, hosted by OBWD, will be held on February 25-26, 2014, at the Abraham Lincoln

Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois.

Last year, the event attracted over 365 participants with representation from agencies including Central Management Services, Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

This year, participants can expect one-on-one opportunities with prime contractors, workshops on topics specific to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) community and a networking event.

Registration information will be available late November. For more information, contact Dana Goodrum at 217-524-7793.

Get On Board Event Proves Successful

More than 200 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and small business owners attended this year's Get-on-Board event held in Chicago earlier this month.

The event is a part of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program and serves as a Business-to-Business Exchange for the freight rail industry and CREATE partners.

In addition to the attendees, the

event attracted 35 exhibitors representing the Class I railroads, prime construction and engineering companies.

Among several speakers throughout the day, Senator Jackie Collins was the keynote speaker for the event.

The CREATE business networking event connected 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.

For more information about CREATE, visit <http://www.createprogram.org/>.

Representative Turner Hosts Construction Career Training Program "Community Outreach Day"

Illinois State Representative Arthur Turner is hosting a "Community Outreach Day," to educate the public about the Highway Construction Career Training Program (HCCTP) at Dawson Technical Institute. The event will be held Monday,

November 4, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, at the Sinal Community Institute - Town Hall.

HCCTP is a free 11-week training program that gives its students the skills they will need in order to find a job in the construction industry. The

only prerequisites for the training are: a high school diploma/GED and a valid driver's license.

For more information, please contact Leslie Jones at LJones@ccc.edu or call 777-451-2152.

Notice of November Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is preparing for the November letting, which is scheduled for November 8, 2013. The November letting will include 84 construction projects totaling a programmed amount of \$306,631,000. There are 18 projects that will contain a Project Labor Agreement and six Small Business Initiative projects. Additionally, IDOT will be among the first in the nation to use a web-based bidding system to accept bids electronically.

For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.

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. From September 6-12, 2013, there was an overall workforce of 26% minorities and 3.5% female on the MRB project. For more information, visit <http://www.newriverbridge.org/>.