



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

August 22, 2011

CIRCULAR LETTER 2011-12

FRAUD NOTICE

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has recently become aware of a fraudulent letter that was sent to at least one local highway agency in Illinois. The letter (attached) requests that financial information be sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), appears on their stationery and is signed by a person claiming to be a Senior Procurement Officer. The USDOT's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has identified such letters as part of a recurring identity theft scheme.

As agencies partnering with IDOT, we want to alert you to this type of fraud. Please use caution when providing your agency's financial information and always verify the contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail, etc.). In most cases federal highway funds are not sent directly to a local agency, and USDOT would not request this financial information. For federal projects on a state letting, IDOT will pay the contractor and request reimbursement of the local match from the local agency. For federal projects on local lettings, IDOT will reimburse the local agency for the federal share.

If you have received a fraudulent request for information, please contact the OIG Hotline at (800) 424-9071. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.oig.dot.gov/fraud-alert>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell Lewis".

Darrell W. Lewis, P. E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Attachment



U.S. Department of Transportation
Procurement Office

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov

July 26, 2011

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Our records show that you are currently registered as a prospective contractor for procurements issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation. However after reviewing your record we have noticed that you have not submitted your financial information release form.

Your financial institution's privacy policy may not allow it to release your financial information even to the government institutions without your consent; therefore we must have such form on file before we can move on with any procurement decisions.

In August 2011, the procurement plan for the first semester of 2012 will be finalized. To be eligible for procurements with the U.S. Department of Transportation, you must submit the above-mentioned form to us by fax at 202-449-1364.

Please make sure that your fax is preceded by a cover page so we may correctly identify your company.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Mendez".

Robert Mendez
Senior Procurement Officer

Authorization to release financial information

Date: _____

Bank name: _____

Branch phone: _____ Branch fax: _____

Bank contact: _____

Operating account number(s): _____

Tax ID: _____

By signing below, I authorize the Department of Transportation to contact our financial institution regarding the status of our accounts and to conduct a background check according to the federal law.

Signing officer 1

Signing officer 2

Signature

Signature _____

Print name

Print name _____

NOTE: IF MORE THAN ONE SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON THE ACCOUNT, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT BOTH OF THE AUTHORIZED SIGNERS/HOLDERS SIGNED THE FORM

FORMS FAXED WITHOUT A COVER PAGE WILL NOT BE PROCESSED