

OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

SUMMER 2014



ADVANCING WITH THE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

On January 9, 2014, the Loan Selection Committee convened for the second time in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting covered an overview of the Revolving Loan Program including pre-eligibility processes and specifics in regards to the function of the Loan Selection Committee in the overall program process. Introductions were made of the Fund Control Agent, Prado & Renteria, as well as their roles and responsibilities to the program and DBE loan recipients. The Escrow Agent, Seaway Bank & Trust Company and what role/function they will participate in for the duration of the program. Ethics training was completed by members of the Loan Selection Committee per the Administrative Rules and the Charter was discussed and signed by all committee members for execution.

The DBE Revolving Loan Program outreach has continued statewide. Two sessions were held at the Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Rewards DBE Conference in Springfield, Illinois in February. Workshops are being held in each district from March until May to offer a program overview and answer any questions firms may have about the program. Supportive Services Management Consultants continue to meet with firms regularly to assist them with their loan applications. The Bureau of Small Business Enterprises continues to e-blast out to the IL UCP firms the upcoming pre-eligibility deadlines for consideration on future Lettings. The next deadline for completed applications is May 15, 2014, for firms to be deemed pre-eligible by the June Letting. We encourage all firms to submit their applications prior to the deadline as applications must be completed in totality to meet the requirement by the deadline.

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THE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is dedicated to training minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals for employability in the Illinois' highway construction industry. This dedication has been realized with the inception of the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) in 2009.

The HCCTP is a collaboration between IDOT, and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), where to date, 1,004 trainees have graduated with the skills to enter a trade apprenticeship and obtain sustainable and gainful employment. The combined state and federal funding allocated to the HCCTP has allowed this program to greatly expand over the last five years. The HCCTP started with eight community colleges and has grown to twelve college training programs throughout IDOT's nine districts. Not only have programs been added to allow for greater opportunities for training, the length of training sessions increased from 300 hours to 450 hours to strengthen the overall skill level of trainees upon graduation.

IDOT also took the initiative to create a Training Program Graduate (TPG) special provision to be included on projects that allow for trainee hours on the job. This provision provides for reimbursement to contractors who employ HCCTP graduates that have entered a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) approved apprenticeship program. The TPG has increased from \$10 per hour reimbursement to \$15 per hour as an incentive to employ HCCTP graduates. This is yet another example of IDOT's commitment to diversify the highway construction industry workforce.

There have been many successful graduates of the HCCTP. These trainees have had the opportunity to meet with Governor Quinn and other government leaders around the state. Most recently, the opening celebration for the Stan Musial Memorial Veteran's Bridge highlighted not only a great engineering achievement, but also the HCCTP graduates that were directly involved in the construction. As we approach another busy construction season, the HCCTP will continue to provide opportunities for skilled individuals to advance into the highway construction industry.



Four trainees pause for a photograph at the dedication of a prior worksite ... the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.



ENHANCEMENTS TO THE IL UCP DBE DIRECTORY

The Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Directory (directory) is a listing of all certified DBEs hosted by one of five IL UCP partners/agencies (IDOT, City of Chicago, CTA, Metra and Pace). The directory is a public tool utilized by contractors, other agencies and the general public to identify firms that are ready, willing and able to perform in specified areas of work on federally funded projects throughout the State of Illinois and out-of-state UCP participants as well. The directory identifies each firm by name; includes the firm's contact person; their primary/ mailing address, other contact information (e.g., phone and fax); and the type(s) of work (including NAICS codes) the firm has been approved to perform as a certified DBE.

In an effort to ensure the directory is user friendly, continues to adhere to federal requirements and utilizes current technology; the IL UCP is in the early stages of a proposed multi-phase enhancement of the DBE directory. This project will provide the public with frequent updates ensuring a firm's contact information is current and any actions taken by UCP participants is available in "real-time." The proposed update will afford the public an opportunity for direct contact with a DBE (via e-mail); and allows for expanded search capabilities. An added feature that will assist with use and address potential concerns includes frequently asked questions and an instructional video.

As a participant of the IL UCP, IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, Bureau of Small Business Enterprises looks forward to the opportunity to better serve the construction industry and general public

THE GREAT LAKES REGION SMALL BUSINESS TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 - 8AM-5PM • University of Illinois at Chicago • 725 W. Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL 60607

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Great Lakes Region Small Business Transportation Resource Center (SBTRC) at the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC) invites you to the upcoming Great Lakes Region Small Business Transportation Summit.

The Summit will provide small businesses with a forum to discuss and learn about the available resources to help them compete for procurement opportunities within the transportation industry. If you are interested in attending this event, please submit your information.

Program Highlights

- Updates from DOT leadership at the federal, state and local levels
- Workshops to learn about opportunities in upcoming major transportation projects
- Discover resources for building capacity and maximizing your ability to win contracts
- Updates on the USDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program
- Sharing best practices for collaboration between large firms and small businesses
- Networking session to meet one-on-one with government and prime contracting representatives

Who Should Attend

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs)
- Women Owned Businesses (WOBs)
- Veteran Owned Businesses (VOBs)
- Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses (SDVOBs)
- 8(a) Certified Businesses
- HubZone Certified Businesses

Featured Guests: USDOT

- Hon. Victor Mendez ,Acting Deputy Secretary
- Camille M. Hazeur, Director Departmental Office of Civil Right

Invited Guests:

Great Lakes Region DOT Leadership

- Illinois
- Michigan
- Indiana
- Wisconsin

DIVERSITY



Introducing the proud staff of SBE

The Office of Business and Workforce Diversity (OBWD) celebrated its 25th annual gathering of the Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward (TCTR) Conference on February 25-26, 2014. The event was held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield and featured over 300 registered attendees and seventeen breakout sessions. The sessions included familiar offerings, such as "Work Category Expansion," the US DOT Short-Term Lending Program, and a trucking roundtable, along with new panels involving the DBE Revolving Loan program, navigation of IDOT's new website, "Corporate Financial Planning," and overviews of the Illiana Expressway and South Suburban Airport projects.

The TCTR Conference also highlighted two significant networking events: "Face Time with the Primes," with various agencies setting up tables, and a "Prime Speed Networking" event designed to allow representatives from DBE firms a chance to speak one-on-one with representatives from Prime Contractors. With a Letting scheduled for two days after the conclusion of the conference, IDOT consultants were on hand to provide valuable Supportive Services assistance as well as Letting assistance.

Talk show host "Coach" John Parker motivated the attendees with a presentation on "Success Regardless of Circumstances" on the first day, and the TCTR Conference concluded with the ever-popular Awards Luncheon, where Warren Whitlock, the Associate Administrator in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Civil Rights, gave a compelling keynote address to the attendees. The event drew a very favorable response from the attendees, as evidenced by the evaluations turned in at the conclusion of the event and during each of the seventeen breakout sessions.



2013 NEW DBE OF THE YEAR

Avery & Pryor Construction, LLC

The "New DBE of the Year" award celebrates IDOT's mission of supporting and providing contracting opportuni-

ties to DBE firms in IDOT's highway programs. The Award honors firms that have been in business less than five years, are IDOT DBE certified and as newcomers have excelled in the construction industry. Benjamin Avery was presented with this award at the 2014 TCTR Conference on behalf of Avery & Pryor Construction, LLC.

Nominated by IDOT representatives in District 1, Avery & Pryor Construction, LLC is a Chicago-based civil engineering construction company that specializes in government and municipal proj-

ects and concrete services. Sidewalks, concrete curb and gutter, and ADA handicap accessible ramps are a portion of the services they provide, and their list of completed projects includes Dixie Highway and the street light modernization projects in Skokie and Niles. In their brief existence, Avery & Pryor Contractors, LLC has shown a commitment to forging partnerships with Prime Contractors and serving as a role model for other DBE firms.



2013 PRIME CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR



Sangamo Construction

The “Prime Contractor of the Year” award celebrates IDOT’s mission of supporting and working with businesses that provide contracting opportunities to DBE firms in IDOT’s highway programs. The Award honors firms that strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment, who excel in the field of construction, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge paths of leadership for other firms to follow. This award was presented at the TCTR Conference to Chip Reyhan of Sangamo Construction.

Based in Springfield, Sangamo Construction is a family-run company that has been in business since 1925. Under the leadership of the Reyhan Brothers, the firm has been a supporter and advocate of the DBE program for a number of years. The IDOT representative who nominated Sangamo stated that “With efforts such as ‘Sangamo University,’ a mentoring program developed in-house, they assist DBE firms in the Springfield area compete and grow. It is efforts like this that contribute to the success of the DBE program moving forward.”

2013 DBE OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award celebrates IDOT’s mission of supporting and providing contracting opportunities to DBE firms in IDOT’s highway programs. The Award honors firms that strive to the highest levels of professional accomplishment, who excel in the field of construction, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge paths of leadership for other firms to follow. The recipient of this year’s award was Raul Garcia of Gardenscape Contractors, Inc.



Gardenscape Contractors, Inc.

Based in Dieterich, Illinois, Gardenscape Contractors, Inc. has been in business since 1999. They are certified in drainage, aggregate bases, miscellaneous concrete, landscaping, and rotomilling. Gardenscape Contractors, Inc. exemplifies the spirit and drive of today’s DBEs by finding innovative solutions to becoming successful in the construction industry. This firm’s nominator from IDOT District 7 stated that Gardenscape Contractors, Inc. will “hire from the union halls as needed and always ask for minorities or females for additional help.” Gardenscape Contractors, Inc. was also lauded for completing work on time and correctly, including all of the required paperwork.

2013 DBE ADVOCATE AWARD



Illinois Sen. Mattie Hunter & Rep. William Davis

Thanks to the efforts of State Senator Mattie Hunter and State Representative William Davis, House Bill 3267 – the DBE Revolving Loan & Grant Program – is now Public Act 98-0117 in Illinois. This law allows the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to enter into agreements to make low-interest loans to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) certified by the Department for participation on Department construction contracts. For all of their hard work and due diligence in the passage of HB 3267, Senator Hunter and Representative Davis were recognized at the 2014 TCTR Conference with the 2013 “DBE Advocate Award.”

Senator Hunter, who represents the 3rd Legislative District in Chicago, has served in the Illinois State Senate since 2003 and is the Chairperson of the Human Services Committee. She has made several attempts over multiple General Assemblies to pass the DBE Revolving Loan & Grant Program. Representative Davis of East Hazel Crest has also served his constituency – the 30th Representative District – since 2003. He chairs the Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Elementary & Secondary Education as well as the Committee on Health & Healthcare Disparities.

2013 ENGINEERING FIRM OF THE YEAR



Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Inc.

This award celebrates IDOT’s mission of supporting and working with firms in IDOT’s highway programs. It honors firms that strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment, who excel in

the field of engineering, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge paths of leadership for other firms to follow. The award was presented to Geri Boyer of Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Inc.

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Inc. is based in Belleville and is a Disadvantaged

Business Enterprise (DBE). They apply core values to their comprehensive services and consistently administer professional project management tailored to client-specific needs. While head-quartered in IDOT’s District 8, they were nominated by an IDOT representative from District 4 for work done on contracts in McDonough County. They were praised in their nomination for doing “an excellent job of staffing the job and providing the state with adequate personnel and equipment to perform all the necessary needs of the Resident onsite.” Moreover Kaskaskia Engineering Group, Inc. “helped two projects on expedited schedules to be completed on time.”

Midwest Construction Services

This is the first year in which the Humanitarian Award has been given, and the first recipient of the award is Midwest Construction Services of Bartonville, Illinois. After tornadoes had ravaged many central Illinois communities in November 2013, Midwest Construction Services pro-

2013 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

vided invaluable assistance to many needy people in a very short span of time.

While many initial community efforts were aimed at providing Thanksgiving dinners to the victims, Midwest Construction Services decided to focus on the Christmas holiday and created a “Cones For Kids” program that delivered over 400 stuffed animals to The Center for Prevention of Abuse and over 400 new toys to the Neighborhood

House to assist them with their Christmas Toy House program. John Miller, the Vice President of Midwest Construction Services, responded to the award announcement by stating that “We feel every person, company or agency that has responded to these storm victims in any way just did what they were supposed to do and that no recognition is needed. With that, Midwest Construction Services wishes to sincerely thank you for noticing our very small contribution.”



Exclusive Opportunity to:

- View presentations from the proposing teams
- Get a better understanding of Illiniana directly from the IDOT Team
- Network with the proposing teams

IDOT DBE OUTREACH EVENT FOLLOW-UP

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is pleased to announce a successful conclusion to this year's second DBE event, held for the Illiana Corridor. The event featured four Illinois proposal team finalists who had been selected by IDOT and allowed to bid on the Illinois portion of the Illiana Corridor.

- **ILLIANA WEST MOBILITY PARTNERS**
- **ILLINOIS CORRIDOR CONNECTION GROUP**
- **ILLINOIS MOBILITY PARTNERS**
- **WM ILLINOIS - ILLIANA PARTNERS**

The four teams were represented at forum where they discussed plans, proposals and potential teaming opportunities. The selected team will go on to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Illinois portion of the Illiana Corridor and design work has already begun following team selection.

Subsequently, opportunities were afforded to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and other firms interested in working on the Illinois portion of the Illiana Corridor. Similarly, the event covered a variety of topics which are expected to benefit the attendees for years to come.

- **PROJECT OVERVIEW**
- **PROJECT SCHEDULE**
- **SELECTION PROCESS**
- **DBE CERTIFICATION PROCESS**
- **PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS**
- **WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS**
- **PROPOSAL TEAM FINALIST PRESENTATIONS**
- **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

About the Project

When built, the Illiana Corridor will reduce truck traffic on local roads, improving safety, travel times and access to jobs. Beyond the regional benefits for freight and intermodal connections, the Illiana Corridor will provide an opportunity for jobs and economic development. Potential benefits include the creation of more than 13,000 construction jobs and thousands of long-term jobs amounting to \$1.3 billion in wages over a 35-year period.

About the DBE Program

The federally mandated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program provides contracting opportunities to small businesses owned and managed by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Visit the official procurement sites - www.dot.il.gov/desenv/transprocbulletin.html - <http://www.in.gov/ifa/2763.htm>

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Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Business and Workforce Diversity
2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Room 319
Springfield, IL 62764



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DIVERSITY

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that minority-owned, woman-owned and other disadvantaged small businesses have an equal opportunity to participate in Illinois Department of Transportation's federal and state-funded highway, transit and airport contracts.

To promote equal employment opportunities for minorities, females and disadvantaged individuals to achieve greater workforce diversity in all phases of Illinois' highway, transit and airport construction industry.

