



State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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## IDOT Celebrates African-American History Month

*Activities to highlight "Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World"*

**SPRINGFIELD** – Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: From Slavery to Freedom (Tracing our Past, Facing our Present, Embracing our Future) is the theme for a month of celebrations being hosted at the Illinois Department of Transportation during African-American History Month. The events are free to the public and will be held at IDOT's Harry Hanley Building, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway, in Springfield.

Exhibits from the National Park Service and others will be featured throughout the month in the building's lobby. Additionally, four events are planned and open to the public:

- **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1**, auditorium: Kamau Kemayo, Ph.D, chair of African-American studies at University of Illinois Springfield, will discuss history from the African-American perspective, with a visual timeline, a brief discussion with the audience, poems and a quiz testing the audience's knowledge on African-American history.
- **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3**, auditorium: Douglas King and Jerrie Blakely, from the Springfield and Central Illinois African-American History Museum, will present the New Philadelphia Project, which opened at the museum Jan. 28.
- **10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22**, lobby: A vendor fair will feature a variety of goods and services related to African-American History Month.
- **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28**, cafeteria: The culminating event, "Road Trip Through History," will feature music by local choir The Messengers, a trivia quiz and Southern-inspired desserts.

The public is encouraged to attend at no charge. Any donations received will go to The Matthew Project, a not-for-profit after-school program for homeless children in Springfield School District 186 that provides clothing, food, tutoring, mentoring and life-skills lessons.

“The Illinois Department of Transportation is proud to honor African-American History Month with these great events that will benefit a worthwhile cause,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “I urge everyone to stop by and experience these educational and fun programs.”

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