



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **ANNUAL REPORT 2016**



Our mission:

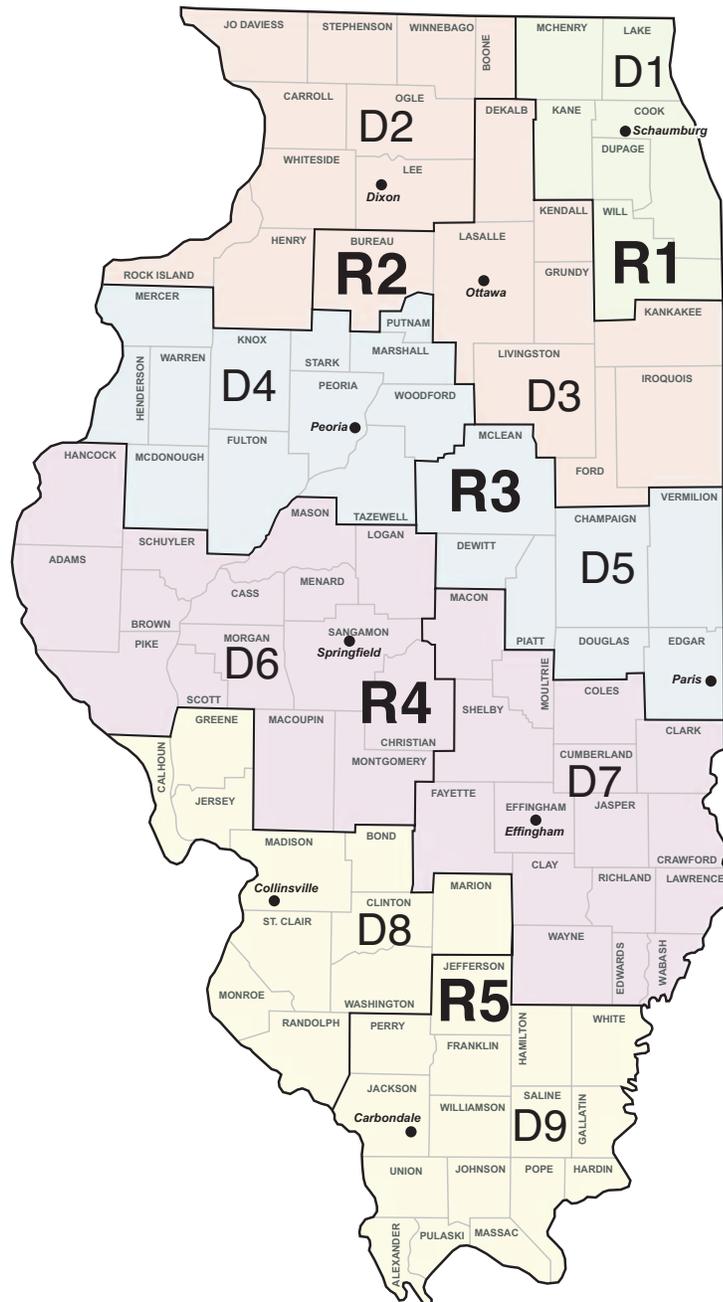
To provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity and demonstrate respect for our environment.

Our vision:

To be recognized as the premier state department of transportation in the nation.

Our guiding principles:

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Responsiveness
- ▶ Quality
- ▶ Innovation





A message from the Secretary

Illinois' transportation system is an asset that sets our state apart from everyone else. In no other state will you find such a complex, sophisticated transportation network that touches so many modes and such a diverse collection of communities. Our highways, rail, waterways, aviation, transit, bicycle and pedestrian systems are among the largest in the nation. Simply put, transportation is what we do in Illinois.

The people of Illinois are counting on IDOT to provide properly maintained and modernized transportation systems that support ease of travel, opportunities for economic growth and a positive quality of life. The work we do at IDOT strengthens our standing as a leading state to raise a family, grow a career and do business. In 2016, we made great strides on projects throughout the state that will help us meet these goals, including the completion of more than 700 highway projects, as well as many others touching every mode of transportation. At the same time, we launched several new, innovative endeavors to spur continued investment in infrastructure. You will find updates on many of these projects and innovations within this report.

Looking ahead, we will continue to seek new methods for meeting the public's transportation needs, while working diligently to be responsible stewards of our resources. Our aspiration at IDOT is to be one of the most innovative transportation departments in the nation – to use the latest technology and industry best practices to make us better. We are well on our way to achieving this, and I am confident the following pages reflect our team's earnest efforts toward realizing such an ambitious goal.

Under Gov. Rauner's leadership, the progress we made in 2016 will pay dividends far into the future. On behalf of our entire team at IDOT, thank you for the trust you place in our agency. It is truly an honor to do such important work for the people of Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Blankenhorn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation

2016 facts and figures

The Illinois Department of Transportation is responsible for building and maintaining the state's highways, regulating and supervising all Illinois airport activity, overseeing the state and federal funding for public transportation and managing passenger and freight rail projects. Through effective planning, programming and project development efforts, IDOT strives to look at a full range of transportation options, evaluate how they affect mobility for users, assess the current infrastructure, prioritize needed improvements based on performance and demographics, and then, with available revenue sources, integrate them into an overall transportation strategy.

\$2.8 billion

IDOT's operating budget
for Fiscal Year 2016



4,833

IDOT employees statewide

202

Safety and traffic
improvements

745

Highway projects complete



7,835

Bridges under state jurisdiction
(third-largest inventory in nation)



43,000

Miles plowed by
IDOT snow-removal crews



Miles of
pavement improvements

138

Bridge improvements

57

Transit systems
across the state



86,620

Number of motorists assisted
by IDOT's emergency
traffic responders

141,000

Tons of road salt used statewide



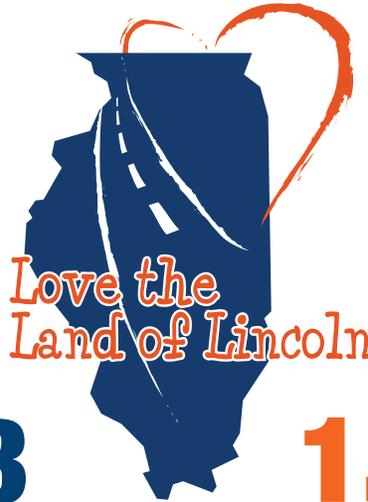
827

Aviation facilities



1.8 million

Passengers served on Amtrak's four state-supported routes



143

Number of Adopt-a-Highway volunteer groups serving for 20 years

1,107

Adopt-a-Highway volunteer organizations

Connecting with IDOT



40,910

Facebook followers
Facebook.com/
IllinoisDepartmentofTransportation



39,900

Twitter followers
@IDOT_Illinois



48,500

YouTube views
YouTube.com/IllinoisDOT



6,789

LinkedIn followers

12,750

IDOT in Motion subscribers

871,347

Visitors to GettingAroundIllinois.com weather conditions map in 2016



313

Instagram followers
@IDOTimages

1.8 million

Website visitors in 2016 to
IDOT.illinois.gov

Keeping Illinois roads safe

In 2016, Illinois saw the highest number of fatalities on state roads and highways in nearly a decade. The increase in fatal crashes occurred across the board in both urban and rural locations, touching travel on all types of public roads. IDOT continues to deploy a number of tactics to address this escalating problem — such as incorporating the use of pertinent safety data into road and bridge design decision-making processes — and will continue to seek ways to further ensure Illinois roads stay safe for all.

1,076

Deaths on Illinois roads



Worker death in
an Illinois work zone



995

Fatal crashes on Illinois roads

42

Work-zone fatalities
in Illinois

26,000

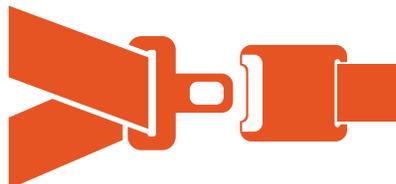
Hours Illinois State Police
devoted to work-zone patrols

1 million

Views on IDOT's first "Invinceable" public safety video within four months

93%

Front-seat seat-belt usage
(2.2 percentage points lower than 2015)



82.4%

Rear-seat seat-belt use
(2.5 percentage points lower than 2015)

Financing Illinois' transportation system

IDOT is funded through a combination of federal and state resources. "User fees" — which includes motor fuel and diesel fuel taxes and driver's license fees — are a significant part of Illinois' transportation funding system. IDOT's ability to access state resources is provided by appropriations passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. In fiscal year 2016, IDOT received an appropriation of \$2.8 billion for capital needs. Illinois' funding sources for transportation remain relatively flat while the state's highway road and bridge network is deteriorating at a rate that programming levels cannot adequately meet.



\$203

Amount the average driver pays annually to maintain Illinois' highways and bridges via motor fuel tax and vehicle registration fees

3,717

Highway miles in need of repair

\$25 million - \$35 million

Average cost to construct a new interchange



\$503,000

Average cost per mile to resurface a highway

2016 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Projects highlighted on the following pages include work that was completed in 2016 and projects that are significantly underway today in our Highways & Bridges, Transit & Intermodal and Aviation programs.

HIGHWAYS & BRIDGES

Illinois is at the heart of the country's interstate highway system. This vast system consists of coast-to-coast Interstate 80 and Interstate 90, along with Interstate 70 that extends from the East Coast to Utah. These major corridors are joined by multiple north-south corridors including interstates 39, 55 and 57 and additional east-west corridors such as interstates 24, 64 and 74. In all, 2,185 interstate miles serve Illinois, making it the third-ranking state in the United States. A total of 15,969 miles of state highways and 7,835 bridges make the interstate routes accessible across the entire state.



Milestone projects completed on Jane Byrne Interchange

START DATE: **2014**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2020**

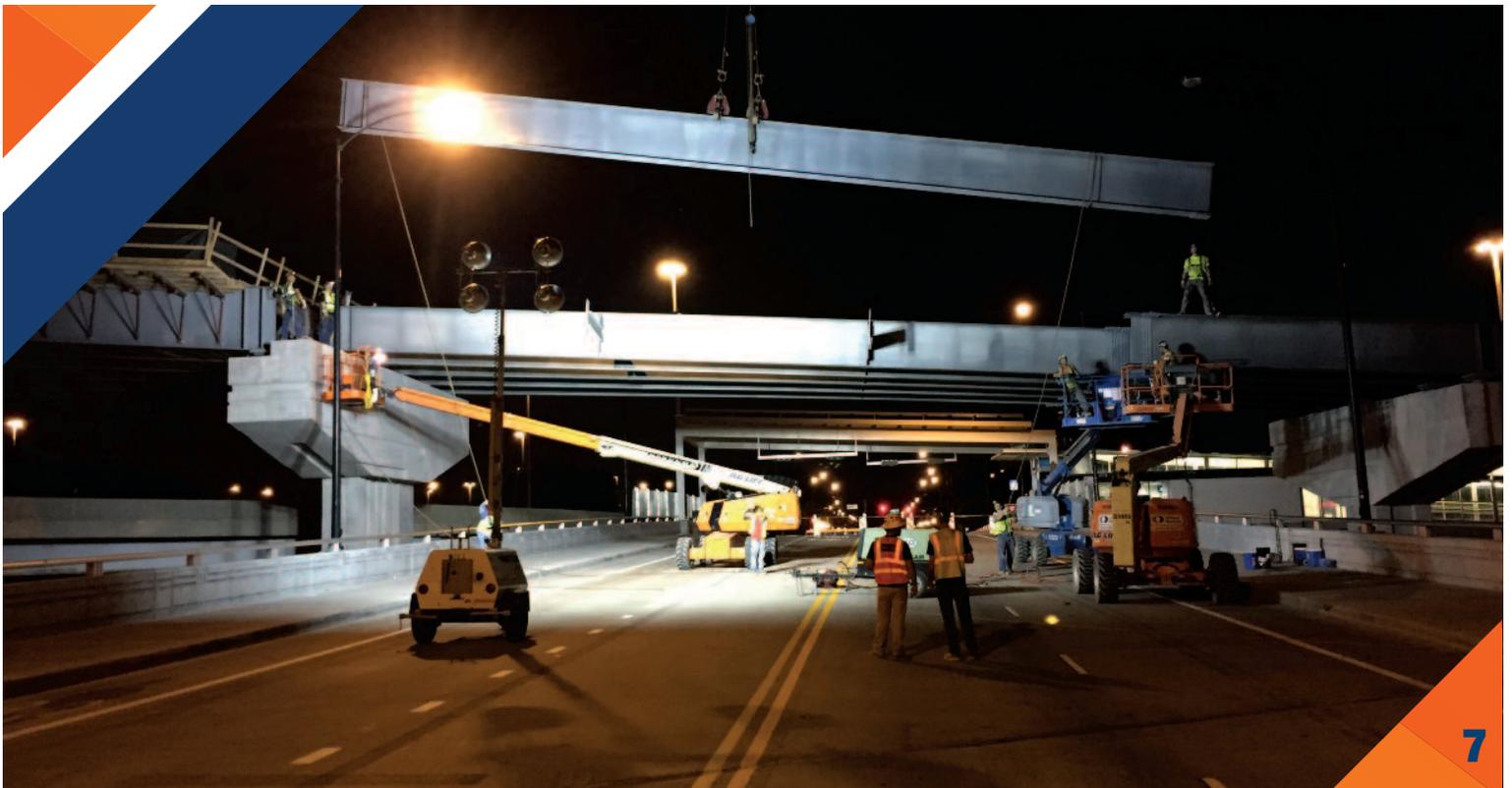
ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$600 million**

Workers made significant progress on the Jane Byrne Interchange project in 2016, including the Dec. 4 opening of a new flyover ramp linking the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway (westbound Interstate 90/94) to the outbound Eisenhower Expressway (westbound Interstate 290). Traffic will use one lane on the flyover until the second lane can open with the completion of ongoing work on the outbound Eisenhower in summer 2018.

The Taylor Street Bridge over the Dan Ryan Expressway also was substantially completed in December, marking a second major milestone for the multiyear project.

The Jane Byrne Interchange, located in the heart of downtown Chicago, is a critical piece in the nation's transportation system, particularly for freight movement. Of the more than 400,000 vehicles per day that travel through the interchange, approximately 30,000 are trucks. The volume of traffic has made the interchange one of the slowest, most congested highway freight bottlenecks in the nation.

Altogether, the dozens of improvements made to the interchange cut delays in half, resulting in up to 5 million fewer hours annually of idle time for drivers and up to 1.6 million gallons of gasoline saved annually.



First-of-its-kind Houbolt Road bridge project

START DATE: **2017**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2019**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$170 million-\$190 million**

Under the leadership of Gov. Rauner, IDOT reached a first-of-its-kind agreement in July between the state, local governments and CenterPoint Properties to build a new Houbolt Road bridge linking Interstate 80 and the intermodal facilities in Will County that make up the country's largest inland port. The project will alleviate traffic congestion on local roads, improve safety and further strengthen the state's economy.

The creative agreement is the result of teamwork between IDOT, CenterPoint, the City of Joliet and Will County. Under the agreement, CenterPoint will build and operate a new tolled bridge on Houbolt Road over the Des Plaines River and the BNSF Railroad tracks at a cost of \$150 million to \$170 million. An IDOT contribution of \$21 million will widen Houbolt Road and reconfigure the existing interchange with I-80 to a diverging-diamond design to accommodate the increased traffic demand. The City of Joliet will work with IDOT to implement and oversee the improvements.

Construction is planned to begin in 2017, and the bridge should open in 2019. When complete, the project will provide two lanes of traffic in each direction between I-80 and CenterPoint's intermodal facilities, which are home to thousands of jobs and \$75 billion in freight activity annually. The new link will relieve congestion on roads, answer safety concerns expressed by local communities and make the intermodal facilities more efficient.

About 11,000 vehicles per day are expected to use the bridge initially, including more than 6,600 trucks. By 2040, it is anticipated that traffic will grow to approximately 30,000 vehicles per day, including about 18,000 trucks.



I-55 Managed Lane project receives environmental approval

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$425 million**

In July, the Federal Highway Administration approved IDOT's proposed I-55 Managed Lane project. An environmental assessment conducted by IDOT studied the addition of managed lanes in each direction in the existing Interstate 55 median between Interstate 355 and Interstate 90/94. The proposed managed lanes would improve mobility and operational efficiency by offering a reliable and efficient travel option in the increasingly congested corridor.

Design plans for the project were approved in November. The department continues to explore ways to finance and deliver the project, with a public-private partnership the preferred option.



I-55/Lake Shore Drive construction progresses

START DATE: **2015**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2017**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$134.2 million**

Significant progress was made in 2016 on the ramps and bridges linking Interstate 55 and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. The project will provide enhancements through the reconstruction of six bridges and rebuilding the inbound and outbound ramps. Some ramps will be widened to accommodate a more efficient flow of traffic. Completion of this vital gateway into Chicago is expected in 2017.



Improvement projects completed in Chicago suburbs

In the Chicago suburbs, many improvements years in the making came to conclusion. The U.S. 45 widening and reconstruction between 131st Street and 179th Street in Orland Park, Orland Hills, Palos Park and Tinley Park finished in the fall. Also wrapping up: a reconstruction project along Illinois 171 and the Interstate 55 interchange in Summit, Lyons and McCook. The bridges along northbound Illinois 171 were rebuilt, as well as the interchange with I-55. In Woodstock and Crystal Lake, a reconstruction and widening project finished on U.S. 14 that added improved lighting and a path to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. New overpasses were opened to eliminate conflict points between railroads and regular vehicle traffic on U.S. 30 in Lynwood, U.S. 34 in Aurora and 25th Avenue in Bellwood.



Illinois 29 expanded to four lanes in central Illinois

START DATE: **2004**

COMPLETION DATE: **2016**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$102.3 million**

The third and final phase of the \$102.3 million project to widen Illinois 29 to four lanes between Rochester and Taylorville was finished in October 2016, following completion of a 5-mile section of new four-lane road in 2004 between Rochester and Berry and a 6.7-mile section in 2006 between Edinburg and Taylorville. The final 7.25-mile stretch of updated highway culminated more than a decade of construction to widen the nearly 20-mile stretch of highway to four lanes.

Safety was a key factor driving the project, which received strong support from federal, state and local officials and backing from communities along the route. The upgrades to Illinois 29 correct roadway deficiencies, increase road capacity and improve safety. What was once considered a dangerous stretch of highway is now better designed to serve the thousands of motorists who travel this road each day.

Work on the most recently completed 7.25-mile section began in August 2012. The project also provided land for a future bike trail adjacent to the new highway.



I-74 bridge replacement ready to take off

START DATE: **2017**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2021**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$478.4 million**

The Interstate 74 bridge is the most highly utilized crossing of the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities. Traffic currently travels over the river via two historic two-lane bridges classified as functionally obsolete because of their narrow width and high traffic volumes. The I-74 Corridor Reconstruction Project will upgrade approximately seven miles of existing four-lane interstate, including a new Mississippi River bridge crossing. Environmental approvals were achieved and land acquisition completed in 2016, with lettings expected in 2017. Anticipated completion is 2021.



Meredosia bridge replacement progresses

START DATE: **2015**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2018**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$75 million**

Progress continued in 2016 on a replacement of the 75-year-old structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridge that carries Illinois 104 across the Illinois River in Meredosia. The bridge will open in 2018. This is the first tied-arch bridge IDOT has undertaken in decades.



Savanna-Sabula bridge nearing completion

START DATE: **2016**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2017**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$80.6 million**

Construction began in 2016 of an \$80.6 million replacement of the outdated, 20-foot-wide U.S. 52-Illinois 64 bridge linking Savanna to Sabula, Iowa. The new bridge is approximately 100 feet south of the existing bridge, which will remain open until the project's completion in 2017.

The location of the bridge and its unique surroundings resulted in a 150-foot-shift of the navigation channel to the west, coordinated through the U.S. Coast Guard, and required the cooperation of the BNSF Railroad, which operates two heavily traveled tracks under the bridge.



I-57/70 reconstruction in Effingham improves safety, traffic flow

START DATE: **2010**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2016**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$166.4 million**

Improvements to Interstate 57/70 in Effingham were completed in October. The project included 13 new or rehabilitated bridges; the addition of a third lane along six miles of roadway from I-57 south of Effingham to northeast of the city; and reconstructed interchanges. The project, launched in 2010, significantly improves safety and traffic flow through Effingham while rebuilding a key section of one of the state's major freight corridors. Through Effingham, I-57/70 accommodates almost 40,000 vehicles a day, almost half of which are trucks.



I-57 improved in Union and Johnson counties

START DATE: **2015**

COMPLETION DATE: **2016**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$30.9 million**

This \$30.9-million project consisted of constructing new traffic lanes and shoulders for 15 miles southbound and five miles northbound on I-57. Existing pavement was milled and resurfaced. A unique aspect of this project was traffic control, which utilized crossovers to place traffic in a head-to-head configuration separated by delineators. This feature allowed construction in the closed lanes of I-57, which increased worker safety and resulted in an efficient and high-quality paving operation. The project was completed in December 2016.

PUBLIC AND INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION

Be it by road, rail or runway, Illinois helps millions of people reach their destinations. Illinois is at the center of the nation's rail network, with approximately 9,982 miles of track. In all, 40 railroads provide service from Illinois to every part of the United States. Illinois boasts and financially supports four intercity passenger rail corridors that make connections to 32 Amtrak stations across the state. Amtrak offers travelers 14 stations that quickly connect with bus service, two that connect with ferry service, and six that connect with intercity bus service. Across the state, 63 public transit providers help an estimated 400 million bus riders statewide. Ninety-six out of the state's 102 counties offer some type of transit service to their communities.



High-Speed Rail project races toward completion

START DATE: **2010**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2017**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$1.9 billion**

Significant construction work took place along the Chicago-St. Louis rail corridor in 2016, including the first completed new station in downtown Dwight, which opened to the public in October. Construction activities at the stations in Pontiac, Normal, Lincoln, Springfield, Carlinville and Alton are well underway – and many are ahead of schedule. All station upgrades will be complete by mid-2017.

Additionally, eight miles of new double track were completed in Elkhart, as were large portions of the second main track from Joliet to Braceville and sidings in Normal, Ballard, Auburn and McLean. Of the 256 crossings subject to improvements, 141 were complete with four quad gates and loop detectors, 39 were closed and approximately 72 additional crossings are scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Upon completion, the improvements will provide the capacity to offer passenger rail service at higher speeds, leading to a shorter and more reliable travel experience and increased safety.



Rail Freight Program protects, creates Illinois jobs

The Rail Freight Program seeks to preserve and improve rail service in Illinois by providing financial assistance to communities, railroads and rail shippers to help create new jobs and keep existing ones. In 2016, a rail spur project serving Sterling Lumber Company in Phoenix, Ill., allowed the company to expand its business, reduce costs and remain in Illinois, preserving 177 jobs and creating 50 new full-time jobs. The Rail Freight Program provided \$1.75 million in financial assistance in the form of grants and loans that leveraged a private investment of \$22 million.



CREATE improves safety, alleviates delays

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak and the nation's freight railroads. Its mission is to improve the safety and efficiency of the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure to achieve national and regional benefits while advancing the local quality of life by reducing traffic delays, increasing safety and improving air quality.

In December 2016, a new 25th Avenue and Union Pacific Railroad overpass in Bellwood and Melrose Park was completed. Prior to construction, approximately 19,000 vehicles passed through the crossing each day, with more than 3,500 vehicles delayed. The new overpass reduces roadway congestion and improves safety through the corridor from St. Charles Avenue to Lake Street. By removing this transportation barrier, the project will enable community development and redevelopment and will alleviate 28,400 hours annually in motorists delays.



95th Street Terminal/CTA Red Line improvement project on track

START DATE: **2016**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2018**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$280 million**

IDOT has provided the Chicago Transit Authority \$90 million toward constructing a new, larger 95th Street Terminal on the Red Line, one of the largest rail station projects in CTA history. This investment will modernize transit and promote economic opportunity on Chicago's South Side. The contract will result in new north and south passenger terminals that better serve the more than 20,000 bus and rail passengers who travel through the 95th Street Terminal daily. The new terminal will be connected by an enclosed walkway over 95th Street, increasing safety for commuters. Additionally, wider bus bays and increased spacing between bays will reduce congestion and improve traffic flow.

The project includes a 27-percent Disadvantaged Business Enterprise commitment. The South Terminal will open in 2017. The North Terminal is scheduled to open in 2018.



Wilson Station reconstruction nears completion

START DATE: **2014**

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE: **2017**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: **\$206 million**

The new Wilson Red Line Station will serve as the new transfer point between Red and Purple Line express service. IDOT has provided \$170 million to the CTA to aid its efforts to completely rebuild the station and make it accessible for persons with disabilities.



IDOT supports Pace conversion to clean-burning CNG

IDOT invested approximately \$49 million for the purchase of 91 clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG) buses under contract with Pace which is phasing out its diesel-powered fleet in an effort to be more environmentally friendly and economical. So far, 20 new buses have been delivered. CNG is a safer, more cost-effective alternative to regular gasoline. Pace intends to reinvest the savings toward expanding service for its customers.



CVP program provides 352 ADA-accessible vehicles

The Consolidated Vehicle Procurement program equips service providers – private, not-for-profit agencies and public entities charged with meeting the transportation needs of Illinois’ disabled, senior and downstate transit-dependent populations – with ADA-accessible vehicles. In 2016, the program completed deliveries of 352 vehicles to more than 100 individual grantees. Grants are sourced by both state and federal funds. In downstate Illinois, providers receiving both capital and operating assistance provided 36.7 million individual rides in urban areas and 4.9 million rides in rural areas.

AVIATION

Illinois' central location has lent itself to being a hub for air travel. The state is home to approximately 107 public/private airports with more than 4,800 registered aircraft. Across the state, there are more than 750 aviation facilities, including heliports, balloon, glider and ultra-light landing facilities, and grass landing strips. These types of facilities foster connections between communities large and small.



Drones offer new view on IDOT projects

IDOT's Division of Aeronautics purchased two drones to test how the technology can help improve the safety of workers and the public, reduce costs and introduce new strategies on everything from bridge inspections to determining the appropriate responses to emergency situations.

The drones are expected to play an important role in increasing efficiency and improving employee safety by reducing the need to have workers in the field in high-risk situations. Testing of live-streaming video also is underway on how to manage and respond to disasters or emergencies by providing real-time footage to key decision-makers on the ground.

The department envisions the new technology to eventually assist in 3D design on projects, geological studies and technical exhibits. The drones also will be looked at as a resource to prepare materials that educate and inform the public about the effects of construction and future projects. Use of the drones follow strict adherence of Federal Aviation Administration guidelines and are overseen and deployed by experienced personnel in IDOT's Division of Aeronautics.



Runway projects completed early

A project to rehabilitate Runway 16/34 at the **Chicago Executive Airport** in Wheeling, officially wrapped up Sept. 18, eight days ahead of schedule. The project, honored by the Associated General Contractors of Illinois at its 2016 annual conference, consisted of milling and replacing the existing bituminous surface to the main 150-foot-wide runway, along with replacing lighting and electrical circuit work, vault modifications and pavement marking. Because the project required the main runway to be closed, the work was accomplished on nights and weekends to cause as little disruption as possible to the airport and its users.

A runway project in western Illinois focused on realigning and reconstructing a portion of Taxiway “D” at **Quincy Regional Airport** was completed 44 days ahead of schedule on Nov. 2. Taxiway “D” connects the airport’s main terminal apron to the end of Runway 13, which serves as the crosswind runway of the airport. Upon completion of the project, the runway met current federal design standards.



Peoria International Airport updates main ramp

A project to rehabilitate the main terminal ramp at the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport began construction in July. The final product will help to serve existing commercial aircraft as well as promote additional growth for the airport.

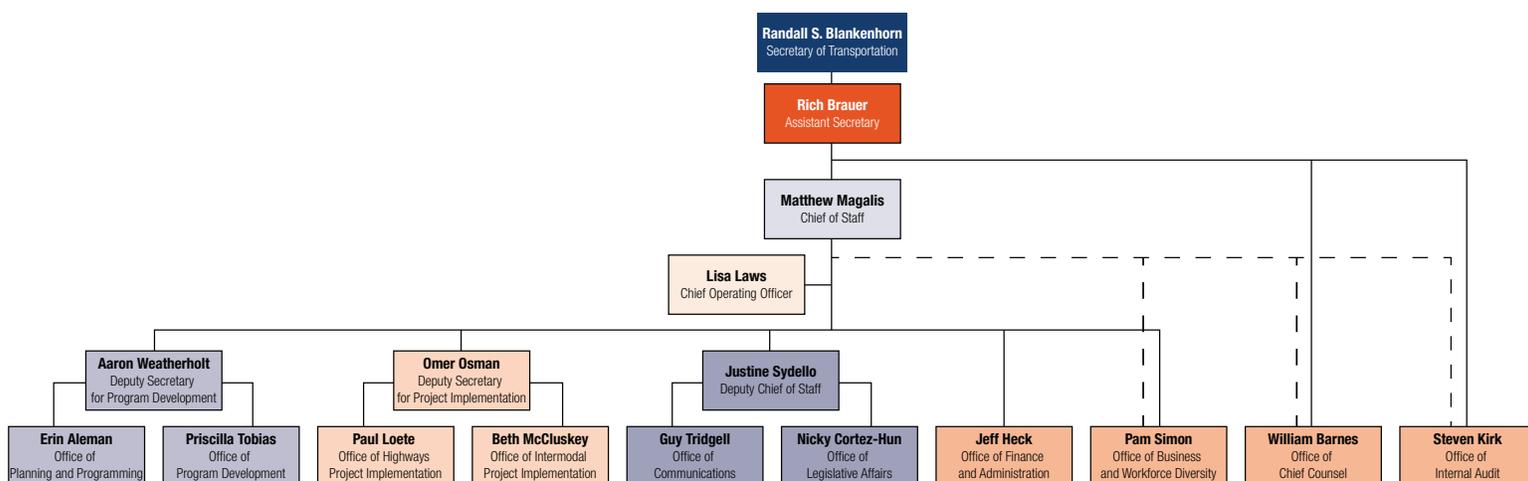
AGENCY ACHIEVEMENTS

IDOT experienced a great year of growth and achievements, all of which will further propel the agency toward its vision to be the premier transportation department in the nation.



IDOT reorganization improves efficiencies

In February, IDOT adopted its first major reorganization in decades to reduce the siloed nature of the agency and better support IDOT's aspiration to be more multimodal. The new organizational structure creates four new core areas: Program Development, Project Implementation, Agency Operations and Administration, and Public Affairs. These offices were created through research of best practices from other state DOTs. Ultimately, however, the changes were made based on feedback received from staff during the first year of the new administration.



Vision Plan aims to build a better IDOT

IDOT leadership spent extensive time engaging staff in 2015 to identify the most pressing challenges facing the agency and develop a strategic plan to guide resource allocation and focus. Our vision plan, Building a Better IDOT, was released in January 2016 and is updated every six months as projects are completed and new priorities are identified. The vision plan focuses on four major goal themes: funding, innovation, credibility and workforce.

Above & Beyond award recognizes employee excellence

A new statewide employee recognition program, the Above & Beyond award, highlights positive contributions of staff and shows appreciation of those who go “above and beyond” in their work for the department. Nominations are accepted twice annually, and several winners are announced each cycle during a recognition ceremony at their district office with Secretary Blankenhorn. Selected candidates must exhibit a good work record, positive attitude, a commitment to quality and uphold the values of IDOT.



Multiyear Plan targets \$11 billion in projects

Every year, IDOT develops a six-year plan for how to prioritize the state's highway and bridge transportation assets. IDOT's Multiyear Plan (MYP) provides details on the plan's funding, process and proposed projects and initiatives that will preserve, maintain, improve and expand Illinois' transportation system. The proposed multiyear plan for 2016-2022 included more than \$11 billion in projects, with more than \$2.02 billion in projected spending in fiscal year 2017. Over the next six years, this program will aim to improve 2,523 miles of roads and 501 bridges as well as target safety improvements along identified fatal and severe crash locations and to railroad crossings across the state. A total of \$431 million is earmarked for local benefits programs to help cities, counties and townships improve local roads and support economic development.

Gainsharing projects will help strengthen operations

In an effort to identify opportunities to improve operational efficiency and enhance the quality of services it delivers, IDOT launched a gainsharing pilot program in 2016 that financially rewards employees who bring forward tangible cost-saving ideas the department can implement. The program's overall goals are to provide the residents of Illinois with the highest quality transportation-related services at the most competitive price and financially reward eligible IDOT employees when their efforts directly generate tangible and documented cost savings. The agency has identified three areas for potential savings. The Sign Shop is looking at reducing the amount of aluminum scrapped, separating high-value scrap from low-value scrap to increase value when sold, converting to LED lighting and using solar power. The Bureau of Information Processing is evaluating an idea to convert desktop computers to a cheaper, thinner client solution. And Ferry Operations is looking at opportunities to reduce fuel consumption, reduce cost of third-party maintenance and seek advertising/sponsorships.



Rapid Results initiative improves IDOT processes

Under the leadership of Gov. Rauner, the Rapid Results Initiative is a continuous process improvement practice implemented throughout the State of Illinois. IDOT has deployed several staff to receive Rapid Results training to help make agency processes more efficient. IDOT's goal is to reduce the burdens of inefficient processes and deliver quality product and services to both internal and external customers. One project implemented thus far using lean methodologies has reduced processing times for architecture and engineering consulting agreements by nearly 60 percent. Reducing the time it takes for agreements to be processed helps to avoid disrupting business functions of consultants and to keep projects on schedule.

'Invinceable' campaign surpasses a million views

IDOT's latest behavioral safety campaign focused on engaging 18- to 34-year-olds in hopes of inspiring increased seat-belt use and decreased drinking and driving. Funded through federal transportation dollars, this campaign began Labor Day weekend. Within four months, the video netted more than 1 million views.

New reimbursement program helps DBE firms

In October, IDOT added a reimbursement program to its Supportive Services Program to help IDOT-certified DBE firms pay for certain business expenses, such as membership costs for professional organizations or training opportunities. Reimbursement is up to 50 percent of approved categories. Each DBE is allotted one reimbursement per quarter and capped at \$1,500 per year. In the program's first three months, IDOT processed six reimbursements. It is IDOT's goal to provide assistance to DBE firms and individuals interested in doing business with the department in ways that ensure equity, access and transparency.

3D surveying enhances quality, safety

The Illinois Department of Transportation has begun using 3D laser scanners to improve worker safety and acquire more detailed images during surveying work. This innovative effort started several years ago; the second phase of the project, implementation, is ongoing. The aim is to use the technology effectively to reduce setup time, while increasing user benefits and worker safety. The project is studying the qualitative and quantitative benefits for worker safety, in particular at intersections. The laser scanner provides a 3D graphical picture of the intersection, plus ramp elevations and additional details. Ultimately, IDOT would like to use these devices for construction and design purposes in districts statewide.

Galesburg project receives top honors in AASHTO competition

Illinois was one of five states to receive top honors at the annual Mid America Association of Transportation Officials (MAASTO) conference. MAASTO's national awards program highlights excellence in transportation projects that improve travel safety, reduce roadway congestion and provide more travel options to consumers. The best transportation projects in three categories were recognized: Quality of life/Community Development, Best Use of Innovation, and Under Budget.

IDOT stood out in the Quality of Life/Community Development, medium project group, category for its "Galesburg Bridges over Railways" project, completed in 2015. The \$64 million project improved road and rail transportation through the construction of a second bridge built above railroad tracks and grade-separated road lanes at rail crossings. The bridge allowed for 10,000 vehicles, pedestrians bicyclists and 100 freight trains to travel unimpeded through the primary Galesburg downtown corridor daily, while also allowing emergency vehicles quick access in and out of the city. The grade-separated road lanes at rail crossings removed the risk of grade-crossing crashes.

Overall, the project and 12 others will increase travel safety and improve living conditions by reducing the need for trains to sound horns at intersections.



IDOT earns national recognition for materials testing

The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recognized IDOT with a “Sweet Sixteen” award for testing protocols to ensure performance of asphalt pavements mixed with recycled asphalt pavement and shingles. IDOT installed I-FIT (Illinois Flexibility Index Test) testing machines in the central laboratory and two of nine district offices to test the mix designs for selected projects. The I-FIT test method has garnered national and international attention in the engineering community. Approved mix designs using this index result in extended performance and increase the longevity of hot mix asphalt pavements, which translates to significant savings on future rehabilitation projects. The new testing method developed by IDOT and researchers reduces regulations while encouraging innovation and sustainability for future mix designs.

District 6 earns pavement award

IDOT District 6 was recognized with the Silver Excellence in Concrete Pavement Award (Concrete Overlay Highways category) by the American Concrete Pavement Association. The award recognized work by District 6 for its Interstate 72, Sangamon County, concrete overlay project, which involved the construction of a 3.25-mile-long Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) overlay of I-72 east of Springfield. The contractor for the project was Illinois Valley Paving. The thin concrete overlay used in this project is the first use of this design in Illinois. The improvement consisted of milling the existing hot-mix asphalt overlay to bare concrete, installing a 1.25-inch hot-mix asphalt level binder in the eastbound lanes, installing a geotextile fabric in the westbound lanes, and constructing a 6-inch thick PCC overlay in both the eastbound and westbound lanes.

ITEP funds 33 community enhancement projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced in October a \$30.7 million investment to expand travel options and enhance the quality of life in communities throughout the state. The 33 projects approved through IDOT’s Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) include biking and walking paths, trails, streetscape beautification work and other projects designed to encourage safe travel across the various modes of transportation at the local level. This program is one of the most popular at IDOT and highly competitive because it allows local government to put into action their plans for improving local transportation. Made possible by federal funds administered by IDOT, ITEP awards are focused on improving bike and pedestrian travel, as well as other surface transportation improvements that promote alternative options for getting around your community. To be eligible, applicants must commit a local match of at least 20 percent to their project and demonstrate a plan to have their awards spent by 2019. IDOT received 241 applications for projects worth an estimated \$261.3 million. The next round of ITEP awards will be in 2018.

