

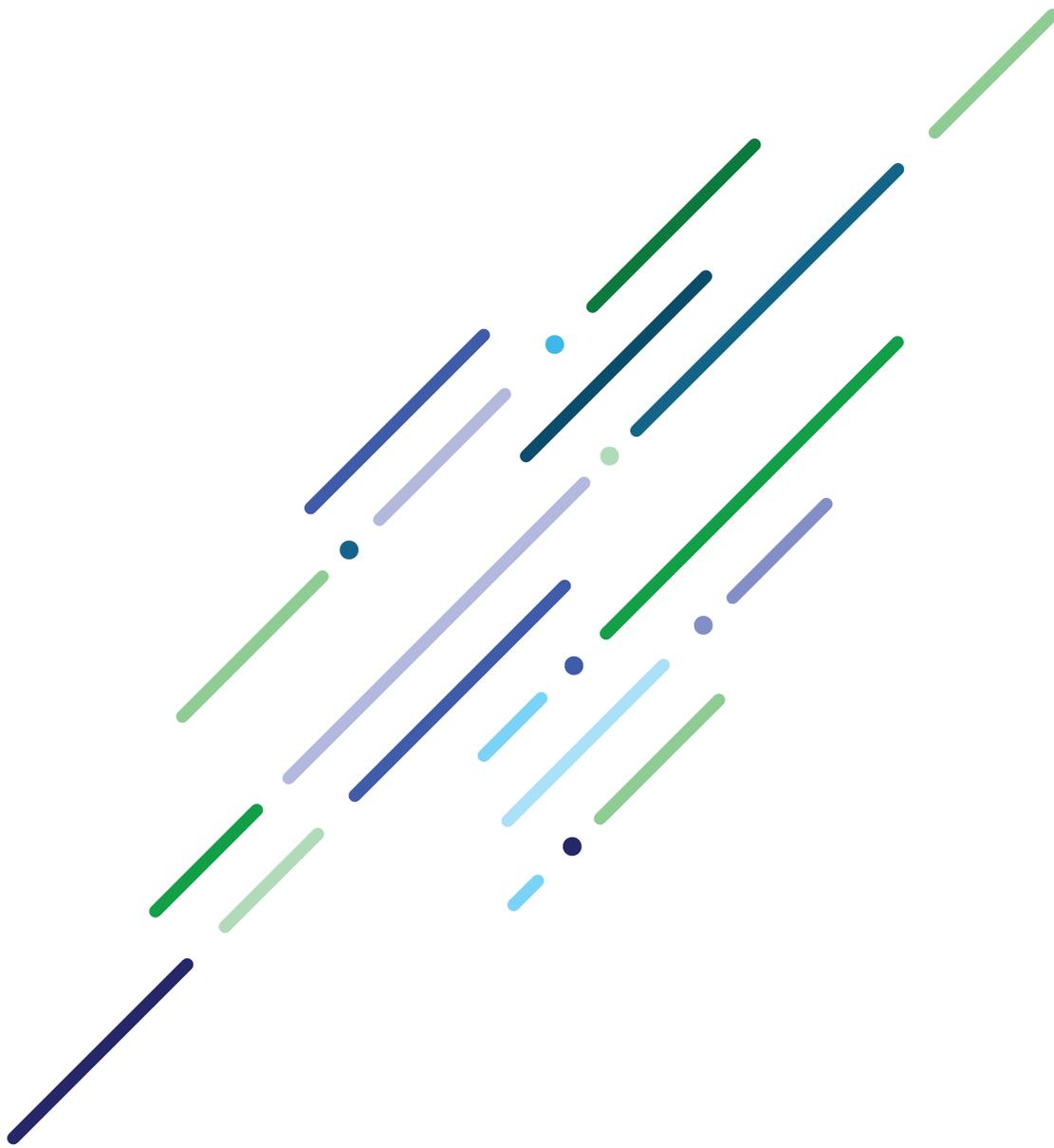


IDOT ANNUAL REPORT

2018



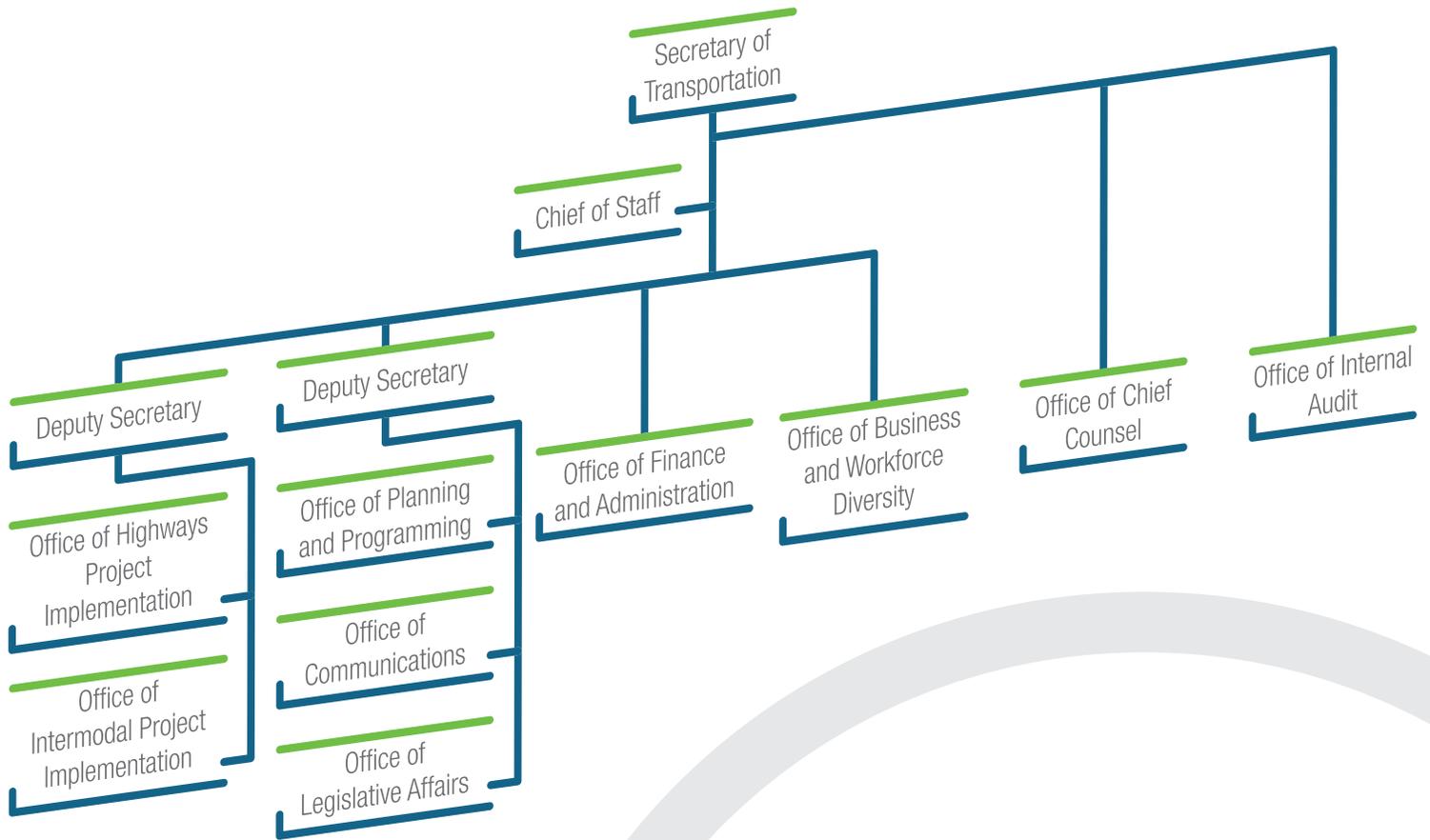
State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Transportation



IDOT ANNUAL REPORT
2018



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





IDOT PROUD

We're moving goods and people in increasing numbers in our state and the Illinois Department of Transportation proudly leads improvement and maintenance of the state transportation system to encourage growth and economic development.

We're home to the third largest interstate network and the third largest inventory of bridges in the country. As the freight hub of North America, Illinois is served by all seven Class 1 railroads, and our waterways provide access to key ports in the Midwest. Additionally, more than 621 million travelers use our statewide transit services.

This year included major milestones, such as opening multimillion dollar bridges, new engineering solutions to improve safety, public outreach to reduce the number of deaths on our roads, and so much more.

From the twinkling lights of one of the nation's largest cities; to our flat prairies, home to some of the most fertile farm ground in the country; to the rolling hills and beautiful forests in the south – our employees continuously rise to the challenge to ensure goods and people keep moving through our diverse landscape.

It's a big job, but we're honored to curate a system that encourages travel and commerce in our great state.

#IDOTProud



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**



INNOVATION



Transportation is a strategic advantage for our state – an advantage that creates great economic opportunity for Illinoisans and for our country. We consistently and methodically seek new ways to approach maintaining and growing our system, to better meet the needs of our customers, and to lead the field in innovation.

Talented IDOT employees focus daily on new and better ways complete this important work with the overarching goals of saving money, saving time and providing a superior system the whole state can enjoy with pride.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTION WINS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION GRAND PRIZE

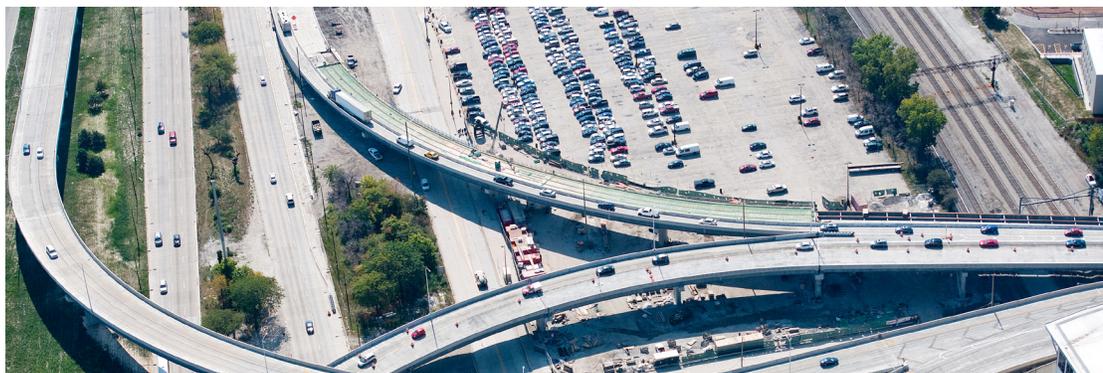
IDOT brought home the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials 2018 Grand Prize, the top honor for state departments of transportation. The Interstate 55-Lake Shore Drive interchange project earned the honor for innovative use of a temporary bridge to accommodate inbound I-55 traffic to southbound Lake Shore Drive, saving the public countless hours of delays by avoiding extended closures and detours during the reconstruction.

The project, peer selected from a field of 79 nominations from 35 states, also was in the running for the People’s Choice Award determined by online voting. The project received 10,622 votes, the third most in the contest.



Secretary Blankenhorn and staff accepted the award at the annual AASHTO meeting.

The prize included \$10,000 for a local nonprofit organization. IDOT chose Special Olympics as the recipient and presented the award in November. The first Special Olympics event debuted 50 years ago at Chicago’s Soldier Field, just north of the interchange, which was completed in 2017.



PERSEVERING ROADS AND BRIDGES WITH ASSET MANAGEMENT

You wouldn't buy a new car and never change the oil. Likewise, IDOT is moving to a new way of maintaining its assets. In 2017, IDOT began developing the first Transportation Asset Management Plan to guide a new approach to operating, maintaining and improving the vast statewide network of highways and bridges.

The initial plan was released in April and was certified by the Federal Highway Administration in October. IDOT is now working on the final Transportation Asset Management Plan, due June 30, 2019.

The new approach prioritizes the maintenance of roads and bridges to save taxpayers and the state money. It shifts programming and treatment decisions from "worst first" to keeping good roads and bridges in acceptable condition. The plan outlines how IDOT will develop and

implement long-term strategies for proper maintenance of highways and bridges to ensure a longer life.

It will take several years to achieve and sustain a desired state of good repair over the lifecycle of the assets due to current funding levels and the present state of roads and bridges. However, it will ultimately yield higher percentages of roads and bridges in acceptable condition.



IDOT's asset management activities are **Raising the Bar** by taking advantage of:

- ✓ New technology
- ✓ New ways of doing business
- ✓ Improved transparency and accountability

SMART LIGHTING PILOT PROGRAM

Two unassuming sets of streetlights in vastly different areas of the state may appear to have nothing in common, but J. David Jones Parkway in Springfield and the new Dale Gardner Veterans Memorial Bridge in Savanna are both home to a pilot program to gauge the benefits of smart lighting.

IDOT has been involved in smart lighting research for the

past five years, investigating cost- and energy-effective methods of lighting roadways throughout the state. At the pilot program sites, LED lights with sensors are used, rather than traditional high-pressure sodium lighting.

Sensors help optimize energy output and allow engineers to remotely control lights and verify they are working correctly. The benefits add up to major cost savings.



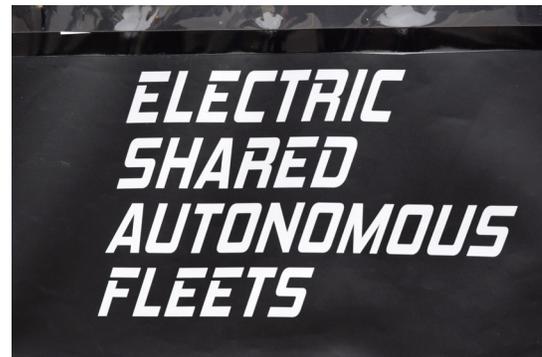
ILLINOIS MOVES TO FOREFRONT OF CONNECTED, AUTOMATED VEHICLE TESTING, RESEARCH

IDOT launched a new statewide, multiagency initiative to develop a testing program for connected and automated vehicles. Created by an executive order, the initiative directs IDOT to oversee Autonomous Illinois, a program aimed at advancing the state to the forefront of research on these emerging safety technologies.

Autonomous Illinois will link communities interested in connected and automated vehicle testing with industry, universities, research institutions and other technology partners. IDOT and other state agencies, including the Illinois State Police, Illinois Tollway, Department of Insurance and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, will assist with the program.

Autonomous Illinois will work with private industry as well to determine infrastructure, data and support needs to further testing and implementation in Illinois. To start the conversation, IDOT create a new web portal to capture testing information: idot.illinois.gov/autonomous.

Connected and automated vehicles will generate an estimated \$800 billion annually in economic benefits nationwide by 2050, which includes the creation of jobs, increased productivity for motorists and fuel savings. These vehicles also will help reduce the number of crashes – 94 percent of which are caused by human error – that result in more than 1,000 deaths in Illinois and a negative economic impact of \$14 billion a year.





BY THE
NUMBERS
2018

3

3 MAJOR
BRIDGES OPENED

3 RETIRED BRIDGES
IMPLODED



EMPLOYEE INNOVATION CONTEST SPARKS TEAMWORK, SAVINGS AND CREATIVITY



Operations employees submitted more than 100 projects in the first-ever Innovative Ideas contest in early 2018. Projects from all nine IDOT districts and Central Office showcased employees' ingenuity and creative solutions to everyday issues. The result? Opportunities to make their jobs easier and safer, improve the services IDOT provides and boost efforts to be the country's most innovative state department of transportation.

Submissions were evaluated by size and scope of problem, creativity of the solution, possibility for statewide implementation, and potential to save time, money or other valuable resources.

Ten finalists participated in a project showcase and awards presentation at Central Office in March. The

winning entry came from the Riverton maintenance yard for developing a warning light for truck beds. A light on the bed of a plow alerts the drivers if the bed is raised, avoiding collisions with bridges and overpasses.

First runner-up was the Morton maintenance facility for inventing a bracket fitted to a jack for installing snow plow blades, making the task safer. Second runner-up was the Towanda maintenance yard for creating a shield for costly road temperature sensors on trucks with simple parts found at a home improvement store for about \$10.

The inaugural contest was such a success, that it's being expanded to the whole agency in 2019 with additional project categories.



SAFETY

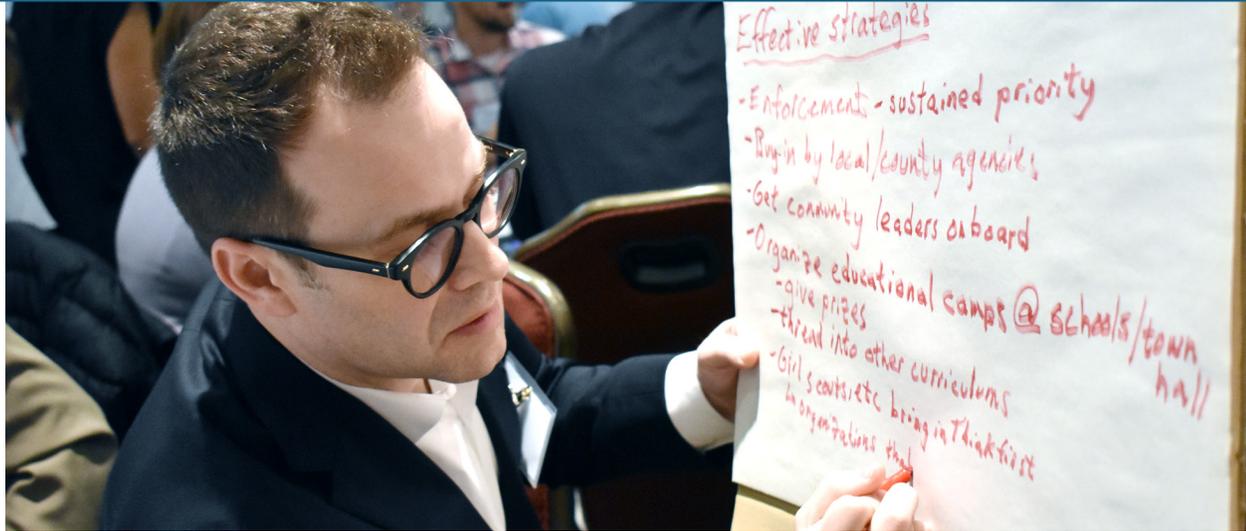




Safety for travelers and for IDOT employees is our No. 1 priority. Whether you are driving to work on the interstate, riding public transportation to pick your kids up from school or working on a construction project to improve our system, at the end of the day, we want you to return home safely.

That's why our approach is multifaceted. We critically review areas for improvement, create new and enhanced engineering solutions, gather feedback from our customers and provide education and free programs to the public.

Crashes aren't merely inconveniences. Reducing and eliminating them means deaths avoided and lives saved.



FIRST SAFETY SUMMIT TO REDUCE DEATHS ON ILLINOIS ROADS

In October, the agency convened the first “Traffic Safety Summit: Partnering Toward Zero Deaths,” which brought together local and state agencies, public officials and community members to seek solutions to reduce distracted driving and develop new ways to increase safety on Illinois roads.

The discussion focused on texting and driving — and other forms of distracted driving. Use of mobile devices while driving is a growing public safety hazard, likely contributing to the increasing number of traffic deaths in Illinois.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation presented their successful “Toward Zero Deaths” program. Other participants included a distracted driving community advocate, traffic safety engineers, educators, first responders and law enforcement partners. Additionally, multidisciplinary work groups delved into defining the causes behind the rise in fatalities and how to decrease the number of deaths.

TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT: PARTNERING FOR **ZERO DEATHS**



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



**7,694 CAR SEATS
DISTRIBUTED TO
ILLINOIS FAMILIES**

**51,550 MOTORISTS
ASSISTED BY IDOT
EMERGENCY TRAFFIC
RESPONDERS**



SAFETY OVERSIGHT PROGRAM CERTIFIED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

The IDOT State Safety Oversight program was officially certified by the Federal Transit Administration in August. Since July 2016, IDOT has provided safety oversight of the Chicago Transit Authority's 'L' heavy-rail rapid transit system. Since January 2017, IDOT is also jointly responsible with the Missouri Department of Transportation for providing safety oversight of the Bi-State Development Agency MetroLink light rail system in St. Clair County.

Obtaining certification ensured that federal transit funding levels will remain intact and confirmed that the SSO program is operating effectively in accordance to federal requirements. A federal law enacted in 2016 requires states with rail transit systems to obtain FTA certification of their SSO by April 15, 2019, to continue receiving federal funding. Illinois transit agencies are slated to receive approximately \$609 million from the FTA in fiscal year 2019.

EMPLOYEES SAVE COLLEAGUE FROM BURNING VEHICLE

In early May, employees Kevin Cook, Caleb Prosser and Asa Smith acted quickly and courageously to help suppress a fire and free a victim from a burning car on Interstate 57 in Champaign County.

Cook, Prosser and Smith stopped to see if they could assist when a second crash sent several vehicles, already ablaze, into the median in their direction. The three men quickly grabbed fire extinguishers and ran to the car, suppressing the flames while a trooper and a good Samaritan worked to pull the victim from the engulfed car. Cook, a former volunteer firefighter,

then assisted emergency responders using a firehose, enabling the limited fire department staff on the scene to attend to the victims.

Later, they learned the man rescued from the burning car was fellow employee Andrew Bergan. Although still recovering from his injuries, Bergan helped present the IDOT "Above & Beyond Award" to Cook, Prosser and Smith for their heroic actions. The Above & Beyond Award is presented twice a year to employees who embody the mission and vision of the agency.

Secretary Blankenhorn and Bergan present Above & Beyond awards to Cook, Prosser and Smith.



COMPREHENSIVE MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN ADDRESSES SAFETY



Have you ever considered that the decisions you make each day in your travels are a matter of life or death? This question gets to the heart of a new multimedia safety campaign that started in 2018.

“Life or Death Illinois” is the most visible and comprehensive safety campaign ever led by IDOT, with messages devoted to bicycle-pedestrian and motorcycle safety, distracted and impaired driving, seat belt and car seat use, and work zone safety.

With more than 1,000 deaths on Illinois roads each year, Life or Death Illinois asks people to think about how their decisions can have deadly consequences. The campaign included digital billboards, social media and online platforms, including lifeordeathillinois.com, and radio and TV messages. Visuals for the campaign were developed and produced on location in Illinois using local actors and law enforcement.

DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS, CONTEST TARGET YOUNGER DRIVERS

Nearly 100 electronic signs display safety messages along Illinois highways. Most motorists are used to seeing messages about construction or reminders to obey the speed limit. This year, messaging took an edgy, eye-catching turn.

Signs displayed during the Illinois State Fair asked, “Corn dog? Check. Butter cow? Check. Seat belt?” Another sign said, “OMG are you texting? I can’t even.”

The signs, while funny, have a very serious goal: to remind the motoring public that choices on the road are a matter of life and death. The creative messages catch the motorist’s eye instead of blending into the background and have been specifically cultivated to target a younger demographic.

IDOT launched a dynamic message sign contest in October to invite the public to submit ideas for safety messages to be displayed on highways throughout Illinois. More than 1,000 entries were received, each addressing roadway safety. Messages submitted during the contest will appear on dynamic messages signs in 2019.



BY IDOT SNOW-REMOVAL CREWS

BY THE NUMBERS

REST AREA WRECKS DRIVE HOME CONSEQUENCES OF DISTRACTIONS

Wrecked vehicles displayed at rest stops over the summer served as a sobering reminder to practice safe driving. Crashed vehicles were donated by local towing companies and placed at 11 rest areas and at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

Appearing next to the wrecked vehicles were signs with key facts about fatal crashes in Illinois last year: 12 children never got to attend their first day of kindergarten, 75 people died while using their mobile device, and 299 lost their lives in an alcohol-related crash.



IDOT HOSTS NATIONAL WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

2018 WORK ZONE SAFETY: EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY



Illinois served as the host state for the kickoff event for National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in April. The event was held at the Jane Byrne Interchange in Chicago.

Staff from the Office of Communications selected the week's theme – “Work Zone Safety: Everybody's Responsibility,” designed a poster that was distributed nationwide and took the lead role in planning the event.

In addition to the event in Chicago, IDOT hosted press events throughout the state to draw attention to the importance of work zone safety, celebrated “Go Orange Day” and partnered with labor representatives to provide informational materials at Illinois rest areas.

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS TRAFFIC FATALITY AWARENESS DAY IN ILLINOIS

The first Traffic Fatality Awareness Day in Illinois was Aug. 17, 2018. The announcement was made at the Illinois State Fair by IDOT and partners at the Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Secretary of State and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Traffic deaths are on the rise with more than 1,000 fatalities on Illinois roads in both 2016 and 2017. Speakers asked for the public's help to improve safety by making responsible choices. The inaugural Traffic Fatality



Awareness Day also called attention to new and ongoing initiatives to raise awareness and educate the public with a goal of moving toward zero deaths.

PROJECT UPDATES





Big things happened across our state in 2018, such as breaking ground on a monumental urban rail project and ensuring the viability of important conduits for agricultural commodities. Great care and thought from the brightest minds in the industry inform how we plan and implement projects.

This year included a hat trick of major bridge openings and demolitions, planning for the first J-turn in Illinois to improve safety at key intersections, important rail grade separations in the west-central part of the state and large resurfacing projects.

Progress in Illinois never slows down, and neither does our drive to create a leading-edge transportation system.



WORK CONTINUES ON JANE BYRNE INTERCHANGE IN CHICAGO

Progress continued on the \$600 million reconstruction of the Jane Byrne Interchange in the heart of downtown Chicago. Initially constructed in the 1950s and 1960s as a turbine interchange, it is often called “the Circle Interchange” due to the concentric rings formed by its many ramps.

Today, the interchange handles more than 400,000 vehicles a day, far more than the original design capacity. With tight curves and single-lane ramps that contribute to congestion throughout the downtown area, the interchange – tucked into just four city blocks – has been declared one of the slowest and most congested interchanges in the nation.

The project includes 10 reconstructed street overpasses; a new two-lane northbound-to-westbound flyover ramp; reconstructed ramps to and from Congress Parkway; reconstruction of the Congress Parkway bridge between the Jane Byrne Interchange and the Old Post Office four blocks to the east; and new collector/distributor lanes to help reduce weaving and improve safety on the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94) between the interchange and Randolph Street.

IDOT continues to lead the reconstruction effort while minimizing impacts to traffic and the neighborhood through the project’s expected completion in 2022.



INTERSTATE 74 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

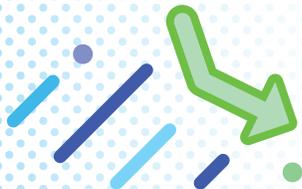
IDOT, the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration continue work on a new bridge to carry Interstate 74 over the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities. The original I-74 bridge, officially named the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge, crosses the river on two two-lane bridges: the westbound bridge, which opened in 1935, and the eastbound bridge, which opened in 1960. Bridge traffic is overcapacity, leading to frequent delays and bottlenecks.

Construction of the new bridge began in 2017 and features four lanes in each direction and shoulders, which are lacking on the current bridges. In 2018, crews built additional piers and roads. Nearly 300 river shafts were drilled. Steel was set across the piers in Bettendorf, Iowa, as the westbound roadway and exit ramp took shape. The most eye-catching feature of the new I-74 bridge is expected to be lifted into place in early 2019: two 240-foot basket-handle arches. The new bridge is anticipated to open in 2020.



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018

813
MILES OF HIGHWAY
PROJECTS



COMPLETED



CREATE 75TH STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BEGINS

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blakenhorn were joined by a host of public officials and private industry partners Oct. 1 to break ground on the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project.

The \$474 million project on Chicago's south side will eliminate a bottleneck at a critical junction for freight and passenger trains and is part of the larger \$4.4 billion Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program known as CREATE.

When completed in 2025, the project is expected to yield \$3.8 billion in new economic benefits. One quarter of the nation's rail freight terminates or passes through the corridor – approximately 100 trains each day.

The project also highlights innovative collaboration, leveraging investments with public and private partners to maximize limited capital funds. IDOT is contributing \$111 million, with the remaining \$363 million funded by federal grants, Amtrak, Metra and freight rail partners.



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018

30 Rest Areas & 11 Welcome Centers



NEW ILLINOIS VALLEY VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE ENHANCES SAFETY, IMPROVES ACCESS

The Illinois Valley Veterans Memorial Bridge, which carries Illinois 89 over the Illinois River near Spring Valley, opened in June.

Construction started in February 2016 on the 40-foot-wide bridge, which boasts eight spans, a multisteel girder and a concrete deck. The structure features eight-foot shoulders, designed to enhance safety in the event of vehicle breakdowns as well as to improve access for emergency personnel and first responders. The bridge also allows room for pedestrians and cyclists to travel across the Illinois River, one of the state's top tourism draws.

While the bridge opened in June, additional work, including removal of the old bridge and realignment of the approaches to the new structure, was completed in the fall. The two-lane bridge connecting Putnam and Bureau counties provides safer, more efficient travel throughout the region.

The \$41.5 million project involved replacement of the old structure with a new one in a parallel alignment. Constructed in 1934, the old Illinois 89 bridge was in poor condition and was demolished in August.



I-74 RESURFACING THROUGH CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

The \$14.8 million Interstate 74 resurfacing project was started and completed in 2018, spanning from Urbana to east of St. Joseph. Some final touches will be completed in 2019 include permanent pavement markings and landscaping.

In the past, construction in this corridor caused extensive traffic queuing with safety implications.

Therefore, additional safety measures were put in place, including longer lane closures to expedite work and limit traffic with signed alternative routes. Extra traffic control devices were also used, such as temporary rumble strips and static signs with flashing beacons.

J-TURN INTERSECTION PLANNED IN MACON COUNTY

In August, IDOT announced plans to construct the first complete J-turn intersection in Illinois. The fiscal year 2020 project will address safety concerns in a new and innovative way.

U.S. 51 around Macon was converted from a two-lane highway to a four-lane expressway in 2000. Since then, multiple crashes have occurred at the intersection of U.S. 51 and Andrews Road. Data for this location indicated that most crashes occurred after motorists crossed the median. And while low-cost safety improvements were made at this location, crashes continued.

The J-turn will prevent direct crossing and left-hand turns onto the four-lane expressway. Instead, vehicles entering the intersection from Andrews Road will make a right turn and travel approximately 850 feet to a new U-turn within the median. At that point, the driver can use the U-turn to go left or make a right turn on Andrews Road. This configuration eliminates the most dangerous points of contact and provides a safer method for crossing or entering U.S. 51, while maintaining a continuous flow of traffic.



11TH STREET EXTENSION IN SPRINGFIELD CONNECTS UNIVERSITY, CITY

The long-planned 11th Street Extension in Springfield opened in August. The \$7 million project was supported by federal and city funds, with construction oversight by IDOT.

The project extended a five-lane section from the University of Illinois Springfield campus to Stevenson Drive. The intersection at Stevenson Drive, an unmarked state highway, was widened to accommodate dual left-turn lanes in all directions. New traffic signals and a bicycle path were also added.

Now, there is a continuous corridor from downtown Springfield to UIS. In addition to the improved access for university students, the new extension will relieve Business Loop 55 traffic congestion.

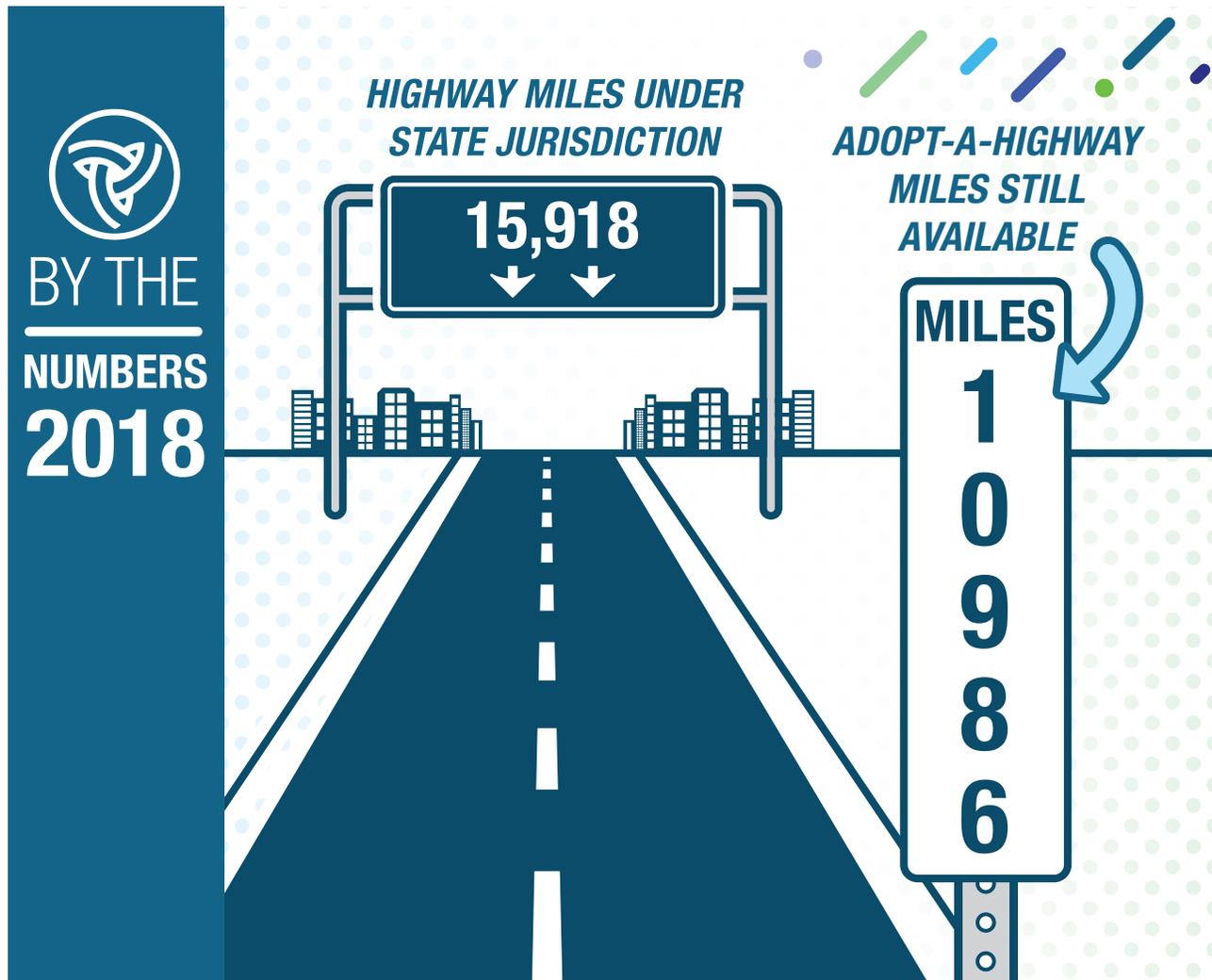
NEW I-57 INTERCHANGE OPENS IN KANKAKEE COUNTY

The new Bourbonnais Parkway interchange on Interstate 57 opened in November. The interchange and related work provide improved safety and congestion relief for motorists as well as economic benefits to Kankakee County. It will improve movement of freight, while providing an additional interstate connection and improving accessibility of current and future developments in the area.

Construction on the \$63 million project started in August 2015. The design included

a diamond interchange, a new bridge over I-57, the reconstruction and widening of 6000N Road and intersection improvements at U.S. 45/52 and Illinois 50.

The interchange features pedestrian walking spaces and LED lighting. Additional project details included new storm sewers and landscape restoration. The location and its surrounding 1,200 acres are being targeted as a prime area for industrial and business development.





BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



**7,855 BRIDGES UNDER
STATE JURISDICTION**

**155 BRIDGE
IMPROVEMENTS**



CUMBERLAND FLYOVER OPENS

The Cumberland Flyover on Chicago's far northwest side opened in September. This \$23.9 million partnership with the Illinois Tollway improves safety and enhances access by removing a longtime bottleneck where the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (Interstate 90) merges with Interstate 190 just outside of Rosemont and O'Hare International Airport.

The project broke ground in 2016 and involved building a new two-lane flyover bridge that spans both Interstate 190 and the Chicago Transit Authority Blue Line to better accommodate inbound tollway traffic exiting onto the

busy Cumberland Avenue interchange. A new collector-distributor road from inbound I-190 also connects to the new ramp and the jobs and businesses along Cumberland Avenue.

A new inbound lane on the Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90) between Cumberland and Harlem avenues opened in December to coincide with the reconstruction and widening of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway. Construction of a new outbound lane began in 2018 and will open in 2020.





REV. JON A. SIBLEY SR. UNDERPASS IN GALESBURG ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE, PROMOTES COMMERCE

The Galesburg East Main Street underpass opened in July and was named in honor of Rev. Jon A. Sibley Sr., a lifelong resident who was dedicated to serving the Galesburg community.

The underpass carries vehicle traffic beneath BNSF Railway tracks, eliminating delays caused by passing trains and improving safety, traffic flow and emergency response times in the central business district. Drivers will no longer have to cross busy train tracks, and police, ambulances and fire personnel won't be delayed by passing trains.

Construction of the underpass began in October 2016, routing U.S. 150 under the tracks and just north of the BNSF railyard. The total cost was \$26.5 million, funded through a combination of federal, state, local and railroad funds.

The project is the final piece of a larger plan to reduce the impact of train traffic in Galesburg, one of Illinois' busiest rail hubs.



FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO WIDEN INTERSTATE 57

A \$7.6 million federal grant will help improve a congested five-mile stretch of Interstate 57 in Williamson County. The grant will support a \$12.7 million project to add a new lane in each direction, resurface existing lanes, and install new safety features, including pavement markings, rumble strips, guardrails and median barriers to prevent crossover crashes.

This stretch of I-57 is vital to the nation's freight network, traveled daily by more than 39,000 vehicles, a third of which are trucks. During busy summer months, traffic can surge to more than 65,000 vehicles a day, causing traffic backups that spill onto surrounding local roads and creating gridlock throughout the region.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2019 and end in late 2020. The grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program.

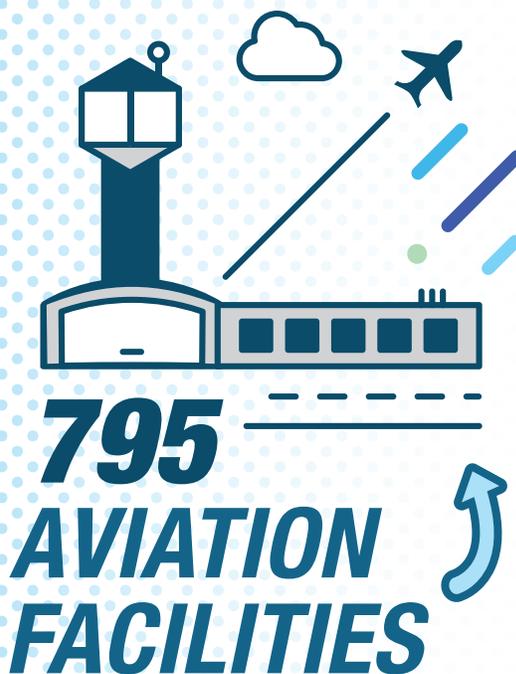
IDOT CLOSES MARTIN LUTHER KING BRIDGE OVER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOR APPROACH REPLACEMENT

The Martin Luther King Bridge over the Mississippi River in St. Louis closed in August to replace ramps and a truss approach bridge over Interstate 55/64, Missouri Avenue, the relocated Illinois 3, and various railroads in East St. Louis. The \$36.2 million project includes extensive collaboration with the Missouri Department of Transportation.

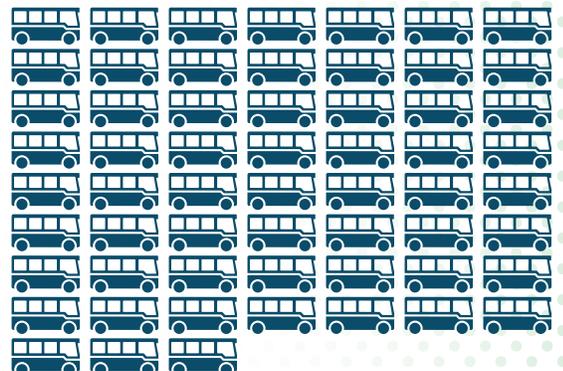
The outdated truss bridge is being replaced with a beam-and-girder bridge. Work also includes rehabilitation, joint repair, deck waterproofing and sealing, painting, lighting upgrades and 1.3 miles of road resurfacing. This major project also requires four weekend closures of Interstate 55/64 south and westbound. Estimated reopening of the bridge is fall 2019.



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



59
**TRANSIT
SYSTEMS**





NORTHWEST MACOMB BYPASS REDUCES CONGESTION, IMPROVES REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

In June, the \$36 million Northwest Macomb Bypass opened, adding a new state highway, Illinois 336, just west of Macomb. The project improves local traffic flow while connecting western Illinois to a system of regional expressways and interstate highways linking to larger cities in Illinois and beyond.

The bypass extends six miles, from U.S. 136 north to U.S. 67. It fulfills a longtime goal to build a route around downtown Macomb, shaving travel times and providing an alternative to stoplights and slower speed zones on U.S. 136 and U.S. 67 in the city. It will also relieve truck traffic in the central business district, reducing congestion and minimizing wear and tear on local streets.

The bypass represents the final piece of the 537-mile Chicago-Kansas City Expressway, a national corridor for economic development. The expressway, first proposed 60 years ago, has a common route designation number, and features the Chicago-Kansas City route logo.

NEW MEREDOSIA BRIDGE IMPROVES SAFETY, ECONOMIC GROWTH



After three years of construction, the new tied-arch bridge over the Illinois River along Illinois 104 in Meredosia opened in June. The new, wider bridge boasts two 12-foot lanes and two 10-foot shoulders, which allows farm equipment and oversize loads to cross the bridge without stopping traffic heading in the opposite direction.

The \$86.2 million bridge was built 250 feet north of the old bridge on a new alignment, thus allowing the old bridge to remain open. The original 1936 bridge was not only costly to maintain, but also posed safety concerns due to its narrow lanes and lack of shoulders. It was demolished in August.

A new pump station and underground storm water retention chamber will help manage flooding and storm water runoff. IDOT also improved the streetscapes and park areas to enhance the Meredosia business district.



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



19
**ENGINEERING
EXPLORERS
STUDENTS**



20th
**ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM
AND BUSINESS EXCHANGE**

WILL COUNTY INTERCHANGE WILL RELIEVE NOTORIOUS CONGESTION

A \$47 million Interstate 80 and U.S. 30 interchange rebuild kicked off this year in New Lenox. The project adds a third lane in each direction on I-80 from Interstate 355 to U.S. 30. Realignment of interchange ramps will better accommodate increased traffic, and the multiuse path along U.S. 30 will be extended. A study named Will County the busiest inland port in North America, so the project is expected to be a boon to the regional economy upon its completion in 2021.

RESURFACING OF VETERANS PARKWAY IN BLOOMINGTON COMPLETE

A resurfacing project covering a mile and half stretch of Veterans Parkway (Business 55) in Bloomington from Washington Street to Clearwater Avenue was completed in November. Most of the work on this \$3.3 million project was performed at night to reduce traffic interruption on one of the city's busiest streets. A minimum of one lane of traffic in both directions remained open while nighttime work was taking place. All lanes were open during daytime hours.



ACHIEVEMENTS





IDOT earned a few nods – and some big awards – in the past year. Areas of recognition ran the gamut from best bridge, to saving butterflies to bolstering women in the workforce.

The hardware and accolades were appreciated, but the truth is the employees leading the award-winning initiatives are our heart. We celebrate their achievements, big and small, whether or not they're recognized with a formal award.

The real winners are travelers who enjoy the results of these elite projects and processes, and the industriousness of our employees makes our agency and state stronger.



LINCOLN STATION RENOVATION NAMED 'PROJECT OF THE YEAR'

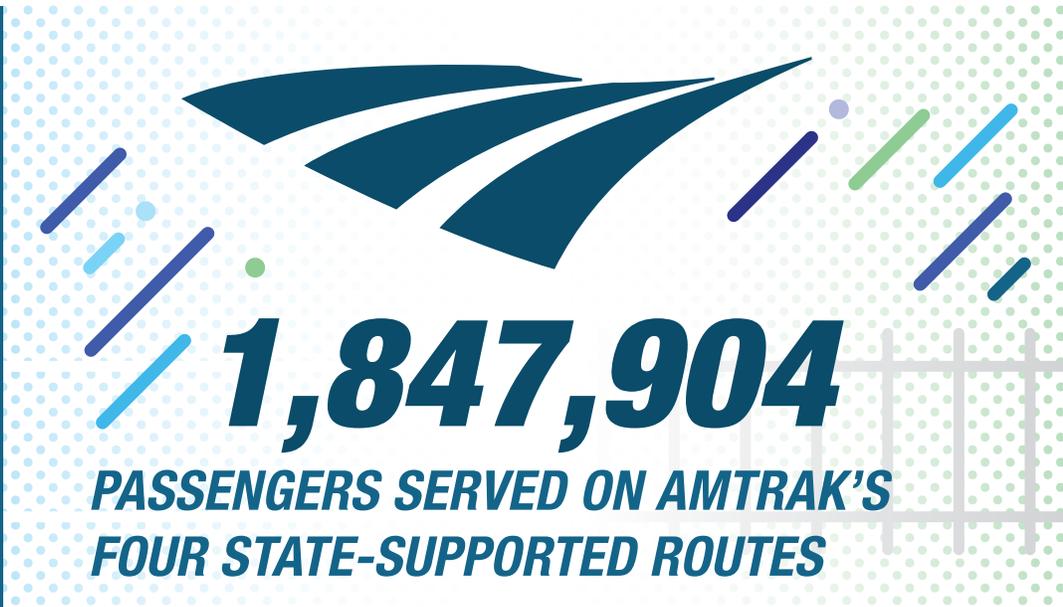
The renovated historic passenger rail depot in Lincoln opened in late 2017. Less than a year later, it was named "Project of the Year" by the Illinois chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The \$4.1 million Lincoln passenger rail depot project restored the station, built in 1911, to passenger use after it was closed in 1972. The renovation focused on maintaining the

building's history and preserving artifacts from the station's inception. The remodeled facility showcases restored windows and doors, the original ticket counter, a scale once used to weigh luggage, a new boarding platform, and upgraded amenities such as free Wi-Fi and parking for bikes and vehicles. A new waiting area inside the station replaces a passenger shelter to the north.



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



1,847,904
PASSENGERS SERVED ON AMTRAK'S
FOUR STATE-SUPPORTED ROUTES

CHICAGO-ST. LOUIS AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD



The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) singled out the IDOT Chicago-St. Louis passenger rail project for top honors among Midwest states in the America's Transportation Awards in August.

The Chicago-St. Louis passenger rail project earned the "Quality of Life/Community Development, Large Project" award. Designed to improve reliability, safety and travel times, the project overhauled the most popular Amtrak

route in the Midwest and one that touches multiple Illinois communities.

Components included updated infrastructure as well as new locomotives and stations that enhance the customer experience and serve as centerpieces of downtown redevelopment efforts and gateways for tourism. The corridor, which spans 284 miles, received a \$1.5 billion federal award for increasing passenger train speed and reliability.

IDOT RECEIVES 2018 AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS AWARD

IDOT and Horner & Shifrin Inc. received the 2018 Special Achievement Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois. The award was presented for the use of mobile light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology in developing a 3-D model of the road and surveying along Interstate 72 and Interstate 55 on Springfield's south side.



Typical survey methods would require survey crews to work in the road, necessitating daytime lane closures. LiDAR technology allows surveying with equipment attached to a vehicle driving at highway speeds. In addition, the survey, which was performed to verify pavement elevations and bridge clearance, was completed and ready for design use in 30 days without any lane closures.

IDOT PERMIT SYSTEM PLACES THIRD IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

In October, the department was awarded third place honors in the "Going Digital: Advancements in Road and Rail Asset Performance" for the Illinois Transportation Automated Permit system at Bentley's Year in Infrastructure 2018 Summit in London. The ITAP system allows the department to quickly and efficiently process permits for overweight and oversize loads on state roads.

Open to all users of Bentley software, the Year in Infrastructure Awards recognizes users of its software solutions for outstanding achievement in advancing infrastructure design, construction and operations worldwide. IDOT placed third out of 420 nominations judged by independent panels of industry experts.


BY THE
NUMBERS
2018



\$1.5 MILLION:
RECREATIONAL TRAILS
PROGRAM GRANTS

5,000 TREES
DISTRIBUTED TO
SCHOOLS



DALE GARDNER VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE WINS TWO AWARDS

Roads & Bridges magazine ranked the Dale Gardner Veterans Memorial Bridge No. 3 in their annual Top 10 bridges list in 2018. Additionally, the Illinois chapter of the American Public Works Association recognized the structure in their annual

awards as “Best Bridge” in the category of major bridges costing more than \$75 million.

The \$80.6 million bridge opened in late 2017 and connects Savanna, Illinois, and Sabula, Iowa. The new structure is more than 2,400 feet long and 40 feet across.



IDOT NAMED EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR FOR ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

IDOT was named Employer of the Year by Women in Transportation Seminar Chicago, a group that promotes the development and advancement of women in transportation.

Each year, WTS Chicago presents the award to an organization that demonstrates excellence in recruiting, retaining and advancing women, particularly in executive and senior positions leading major initiatives. Women fill a host of leadership roles at IDOT, from deputy secretary to directors and bureau chiefs. Half of the agency's executive team are women.

The agency also proactively recruits and fosters the professional growth of female employees. IDOT offers

internships and entry-level opportunities for students in engineering and other fields related to transportation. Agency policies further stress the importance of continuing education for all staff through tuition reimbursement programs and the prioritization of education and training in performance goals.

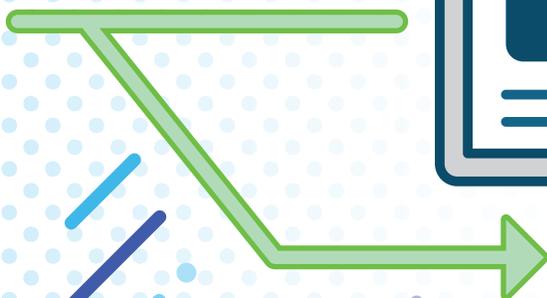


Advancing Women in Transportation



BY THE
NUMBERS
2018

3.85 MILLION:
VISITS TO
IDOT.ILLINOIS.GOV



69,000+

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

IDOT WINS POLLINATOR ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT AWARD

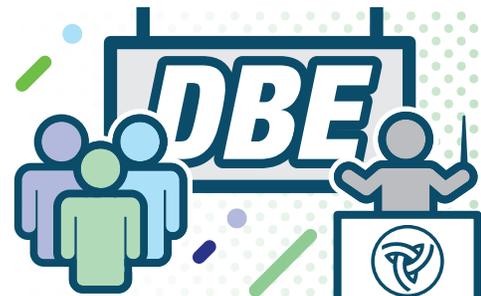


The monarch butterfly, the official state insect since 1975, is at risk of being declared endangered. The population has declined by 80 percent in the last 10 years. In response, IDOT adjusted mowing schedules along state highways in spring and summer to encourage the growth of critical plant species, such as milkweed, the only food source for monarch caterpillars.

Now, crews mow only 15 feet of right of way. Exceptions are made to preserve sightlines

for motorists and to prevent the spread of invasive plant species. The new policy is also part of a larger push to encourage green and sustainable practices in all programs and projects.

These efforts were recognized at the 18th Annual North American Pollinator Protection Campaign International Conference in Washington, D.C., where IDOT was named the recipient of the 2018 NAPPCC Pollinator Roadside Management Award.



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT RECEIVES ACEC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The All-Hazards Transportation System Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan won the American Council of Engineering Companies' Special Achievement Award in the Studies, Research and Consulting category. The assessment was judged as part of the ACEC-Illinois 2018 Engineering Excellence Awards, which recognizes achievements in Illinois engineering.

The assessment developed a statewide asset inventory and vulnerability index of all state-owned transportation

assets. The inventory catalogs all of the state's assets and ranks them based on how critical they are to the transportation network. Assets were rated based on vulnerability to major weather events and manmade disasters. This allows IDOT to better prioritize mitigation practices and discover the most cost-effective way of preventing hazardous events. The final product includes interactive maps that connect with Google Earth and can be accessed on the IDOT website.

WINTER WEATHER SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS WIN NATIONAL AWARD

IDOT winter weather graphics received the nod as the best in the country by peer review from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Transportation committee on Transportation Communication at their annual conference in September.

The IDOT Office of Communications developed branded winter messaging with a comprehensive campaign,

"Winter Weather – Get it Together," and created graphics to help educate the motoring public. Topics included what to pack in an emergency kit, severe weather driving do's and don'ts, where to look for ice, etiquette for sharing the road with plows, and more.

Look for these eye-catching visuals on the IDOT [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.



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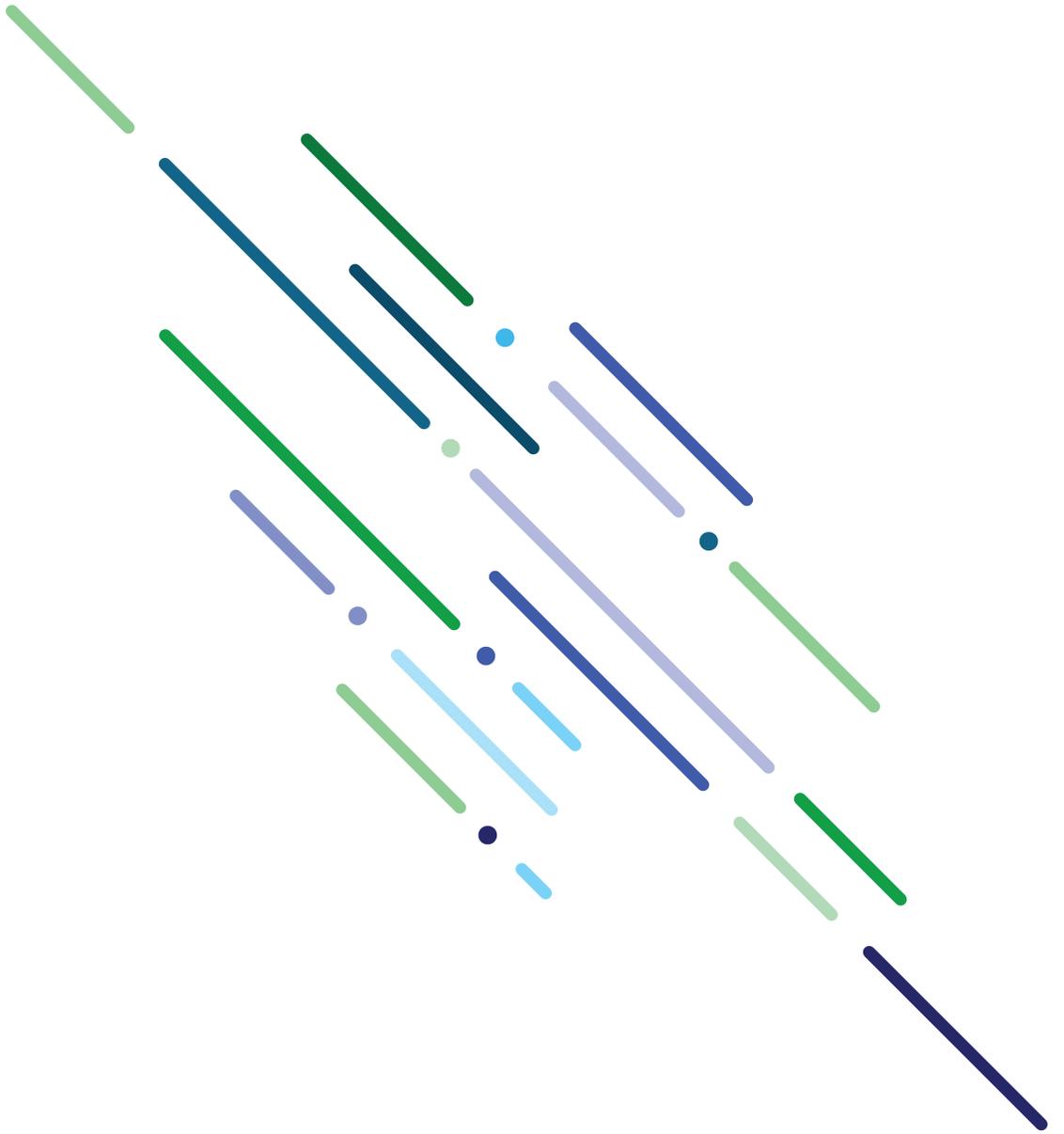
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Illinois Department
of Transportation