



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

July 13, 2021

## CIRCULAR LETTER 2021-18

### APPROVAL OF UNDER BRIDGE INSPECTION (UBI) VEHICLES - REINSTATEMENT

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS - DIRECTORS  
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide updated information regarding the use of Under Bridge Inspection (UBI) vehicles, commonly referred to as "snoopers". UBI vehicles are vehicles that contain a moveable boom with a platform used to conduct inspection of bridges by positioning the vehicle on top of the bridge.

The FHWA has issued a determination that the ban articulated in Circular Letter 2019-07 regarding the employment of McClain & Co., Inc. and Daniel McClain has been lifted.

The allegation concerns against those firms which caused termination of their equipment use have been resolved and the firm is reinstated. The use of any "snooper" equipment from these firms by any highway agency (State or Local Public Agency) is permitted and will not prohibit any awards issued related to federal and/or state funded projects.

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Local Policy and Technology Unit at (217) 785-5048 or [DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of George A. Tapas in blue ink.

George A. Tapas, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Handwritten signature of D. Carl Puzey in blue ink.

D. Carl Puzey, P.E, S.E.  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

cc: Brian Otten, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League  
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois  
Donald Goad, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois  
Arlene Kocher, FHWA – Illinois Division  
Dan Brydl, FHWA – Illinois Division