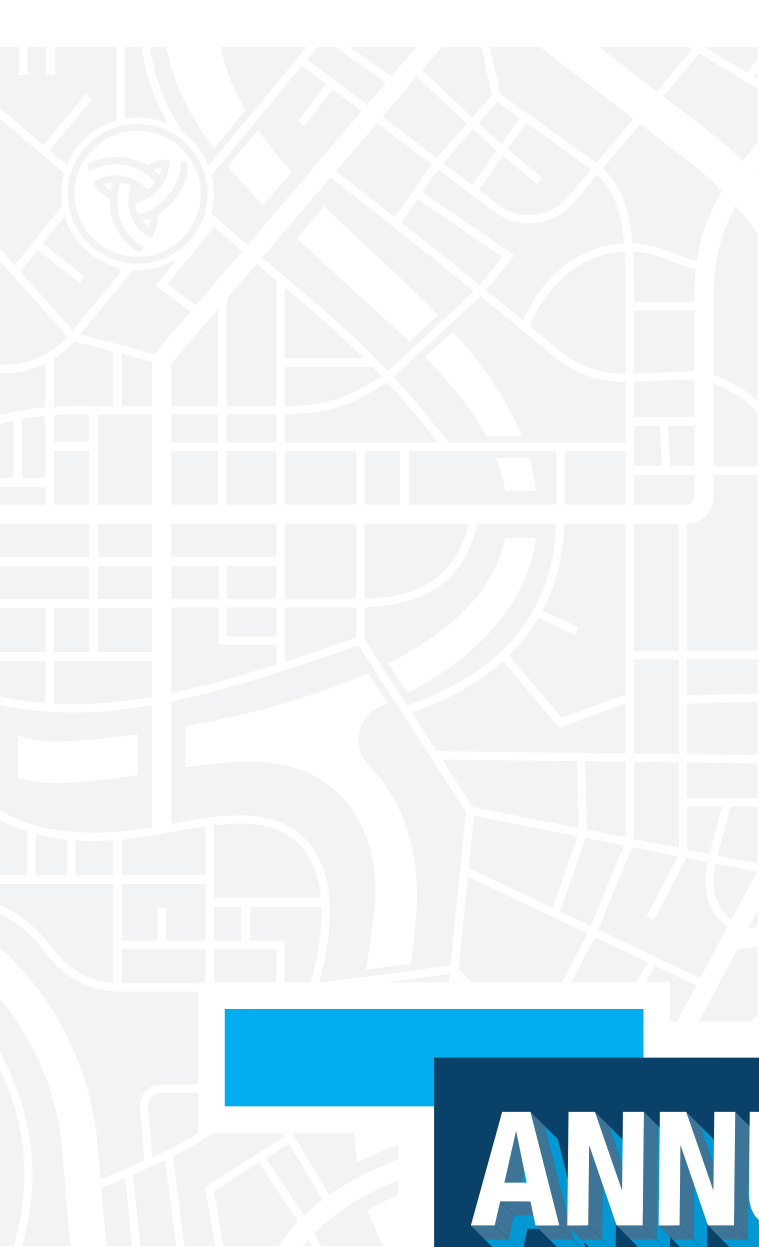




ANNUAL REPORT²⁰₂₀

2020 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANNUAL REPORT

IDOT RISES TO THE CHALLENGE



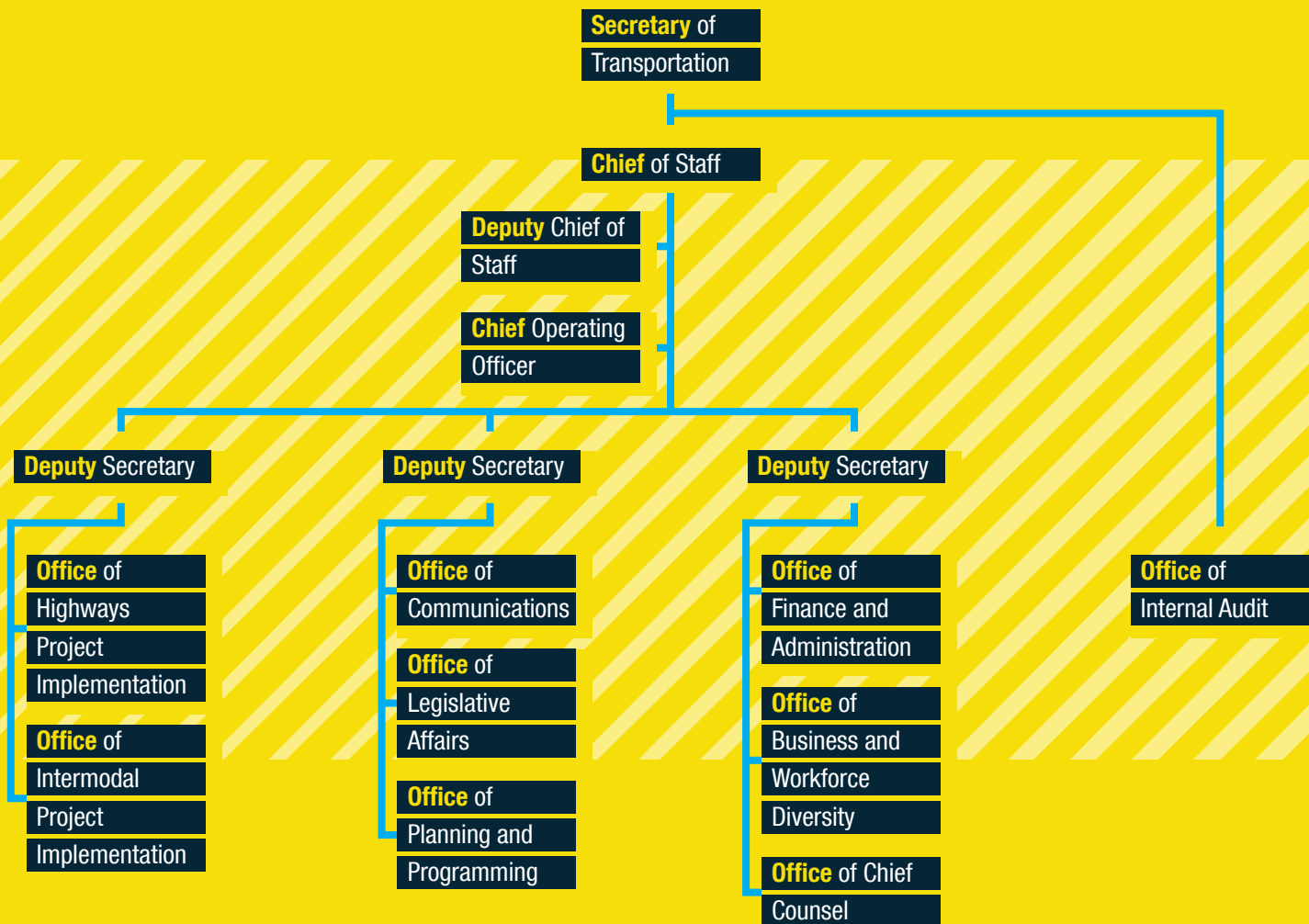
Despite the challenges introduced in 2020, the critical work of building and maintaining one of the nation's premier transportation systems continued. Here Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker speaks at the reopening of the Murray Baker Bridge in Peoria in October 2020. Learn more about how IDOT rehabilitated this critical travel corridor and regional landmark on page 12.

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ORGANIZATIONAL

CHART



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

The term “new normal” aptly describes the evolving situation we experienced in 2020.

Each day brought a new challenge. Per Gov. JB Pritzker’s executive order, transportation is considered an essential service in Illinois. It shouldn’t come as a surprise, then, that the Illinois Department of Transportation leveraged its full resources to meet demands. Pavement was repaired, bridges inspected, rest areas – a vital resource for motorists and truckers – remained open 24/7, and construction projects started or continued throughout the state.

During this unprecedented time, several staff members from throughout our statewide agency worked closely with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the State Emergency Operations Center. Assisting IEMA and SEOC in responding to this pandemic, IDOT staff took on myriad additional responsibilities. Some assisted in communication efforts, while others provided procurement and traffic control assistance. Still others worked hard to fulfill resource requests with the distribution and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment, developing a comprehensive plan so lifesaving PPE got where it was needed most as quickly as possible.

IDOT met the challenges of 2020 while ensuring Illinois remained one of the leading transportation networks in the country. I have never been prouder to be a part of the Illinois Department of Transportation.

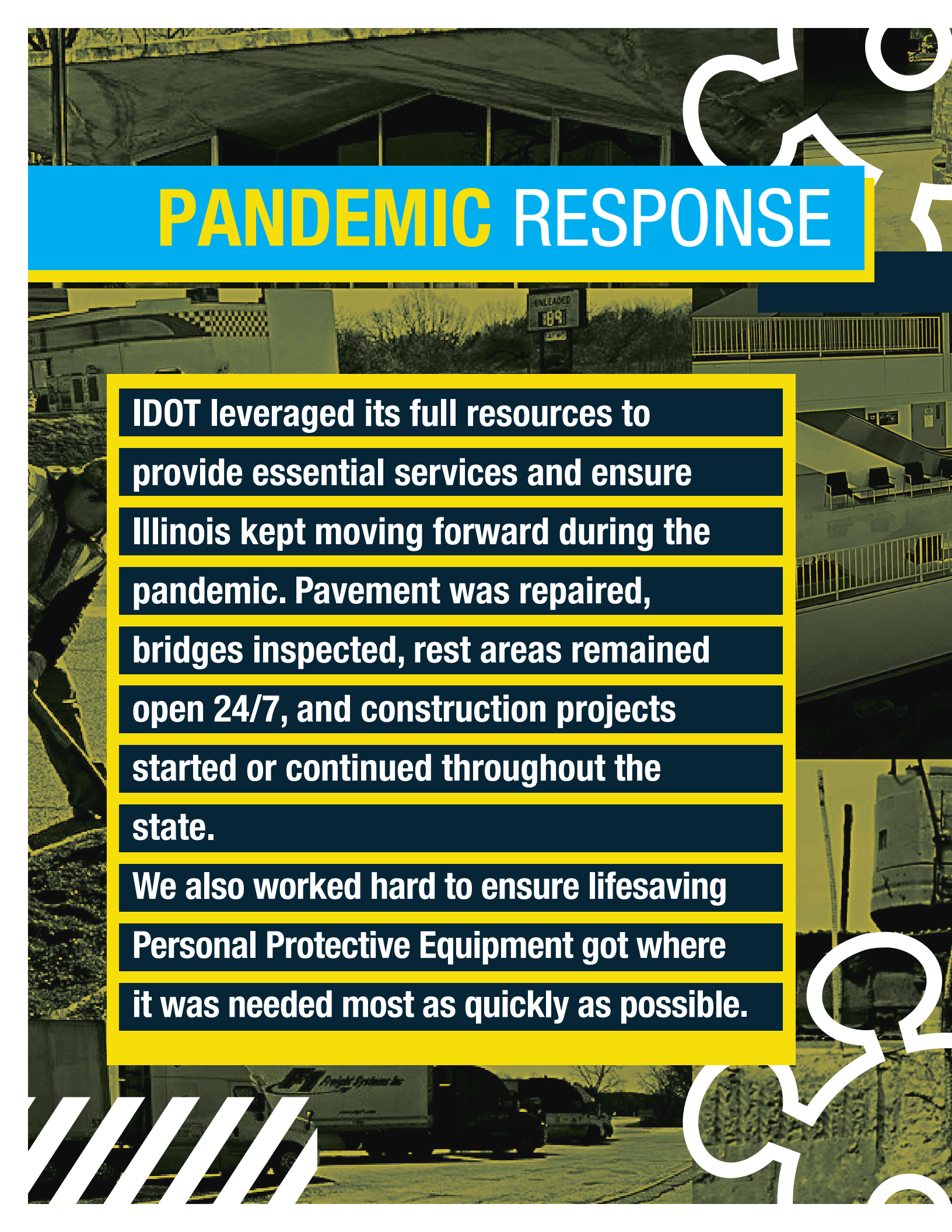


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Osman, Omer".

Omer Osman

Secretary

Illinois Department of Transportation



PANDEMIC RESPONSE

IDOT leveraged its full resources to provide essential services and ensure Illinois kept moving forward during the pandemic. Pavement was repaired, bridges inspected, rest areas remained open 24/7, and construction projects started or continued throughout the state.

We also worked hard to ensure lifesaving Personal Protective Equipment got where it was needed most as quickly as possible.



all
illinois



IDOT TRANSPORTS CRITICAL PPE TO COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

With PPE in high demand to safeguard healthcare and other essential workers throughout the state, we worked hard to get these lifesaving devices where they were needed most.

“Supply efforts were on a constant 24-hour cycle of receiving, packing and shipping,” said Central Office’s Communications Center manager Brandon Oxley. “As fast as the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health determined who had the greatest need, the products were palletized and placed on IDOT trucks for rapid transport to the impacted area.”

Nearly 2,800 pallets and packages of PPE were delivered by IDOT staff and our private haulers to

locations throughout the state, including healthcare facilities, testing sites, local emergency management agencies, veterans homes, hospitals, regional healthcare coordination centers, long-term care sites and other state agencies.

“The warehousing and distribution efforts that took place in Springfield truly were an all-hands-on-deck effort,” Oxley said. “From the 1844th Transportation Company of the Illinois National Guard packing the supplies to all nine IDOT districts and Day Labor transporting the product, and IDOT’s Central Sign Shop providing pallets and signage, everyone put in the hours to ensure that these medical supplies made it to the front line.”



PALLETS AND PACKAGES OF PPE
DELIVERED BY IDOT CREWS

BY THE NUMBERS

2,800



IDOT, ITA AND ISP FIND A ‘WEIGH’ (STATION) TO THANK TRUCK DRIVERS

Light rain didn't dampen enthusiasm for the truck driver appreciation event at the Williamsville weigh station April 29. In conjunction with IDOT and the state police, the Illinois Trucking Association gave out more than 200 free box lunches to truck drivers who stopped just long enough to accept the food as they passed through.

“We were out there just saying thank you to the men and women who drive our trucks. I think the coronavirus pandemic has shown how important truck drivers are and this was one simple way we can give back to the trucking industry, give back to the

hard-working men and women who drive our trucks and safely deliver everything Americans need,” said Matt Hart, ITA executive director.

After the event on April 29, the department hosted driver appreciation events at weigh stations throughout the state.

“Truck drivers are delivering medical equipment, PPE and food, which is vitally important, especially during the coronavirus pandemic,” said Secretary Omer Osman.



REST AREAS REMAINED OPEN WITH ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

Illinois is the transportation hub of North America and a national freight crossroads, where goods are transported from all directions. The National Highway System in Illinois is the fourth largest in the nation, with approximately 2,185 miles of interstate highways on which trucks carry more than half of Illinois' freight, valued at over \$1 trillion.



Rest areas support freight transportation by providing needed health and safety services to essential infrastructure workers, such as those who move these needed supplies. For example, with the closure of restaurants to all but drive-through customers, restroom availability along highways had been drastically reduced. Rest areas meet this important need.

To facilitate continued operation of rest areas in the face of COVID-19, staff drafted new virus control procedures to guide daily rest area operations. Letters were also sent to visitor center contractors, tourist information center and blind vendor managers requesting additional cleaning within the facilities and providing direction for notification if one of their workers became ill with COVID-19.

Rest areas are maintained by Sheltered Workshops,

which employs functional-needs workers for all janitorial and lawn care. Vending machines are managed by the Department of Human Services Business Enterprise Services for the Blind.

To help keep motorists and employees safe, staff stepped up cleaning practices, disinfecting frequently touched areas at least once every hour. CDC and IDPH posters on COVID-19 and proper hand washing were displayed inside each bathroom stall and in highly visible locations throughout rest areas.

The hard work and dedication of our vendors, roadside managers, and rest area maintainers during the height of the pandemic cannot be overstated.

COVID-19

TRANSPORTATION Q&A

Q: ARE REST AREAS STARTING TO CLOSE?

A: **NO**, REST AREAS ARE OPEN, AND EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO KEEP THEM OPEN.



THEY ARE BEING CLEANED DILIGENTLY AND FREQUENTLY.



A FEW ARE CLOSED BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE ISSUES.



IF WE DO HAVE TO CLOSE A BUILDING, THE PARKING LOTS WILL REMAIN OPEN.

A MAP OF REST AREAS AND THEIR STATUS CAN BE FOUND AT GettingAroundIllinois.com



#AllInIllinois

IDOT HOSTS FIRST VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

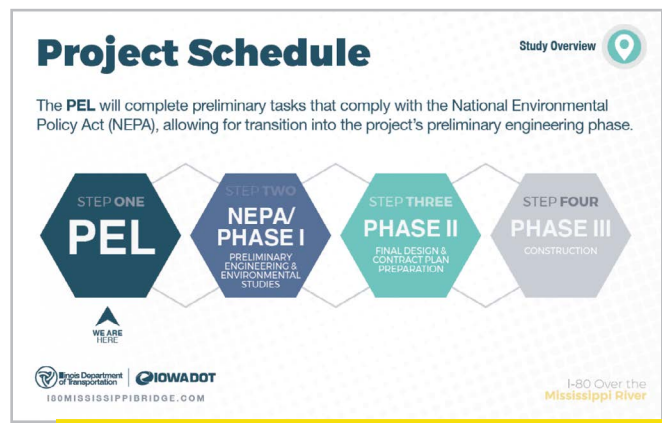


IDOT, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation, initiated a Planning and Environment Linkages process, a collaborative approach to transportation decision-making for the Interstate 80 bridge over the Mississippi. It brings together experts, community members and organizations to consider potential improvements to the area's transportation network and determine resulting impacts.

Public involvement is a critical component of a PEL and IDOT needed to hear about their experiences, what they were seeing and what they believed were the greatest strengths and challenges to transportation for the I-80 bridge.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of public meetings throughout the state and the planned public meeting for this project was no different. IDOT used this challenge as an opportunity to get creative and a new format was found.

Enter the virtual meeting, which included a video, staff presentation and Q&A with staff from both the Illinois and Iowa departments of transportation. Using the virtual format, IDOT introduced the project and solicited feedback while protecting the health and safety of all participants. More than 500 people with a wide range of interests, from local stakeholders to industry partners and even other state DOTs, participated.



NO PROJECT CUTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2021

On June 10, Gov. Pritzker signed into law a \$42.9 billion fiscal year 2021 operating budget that maintains funding for critical programs such as education, healthcare and human services while advocating for a national program to support state and local governments.

While a reduction was made to IDOT's funding under the budget, no projects were cut. The reduction did require a slowdown in hiring, but it did not impact the fiscal year 2021 construction season.

Under the new budget, the department will continue to Rebuild Illinois by:

- Reducing the fiscal year 2021 Operations budget to maximize resources for the Road Construction Program and mitigate lost revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fully funding the fiscal year 2021 Road Program at \$3.2 billion. Includes \$50 million in funding for Passenger Rail Operating Assistance – Amtrak.
- Including \$446.7 million in CARES Act funding to support the state's airports.
- Providing an appropriation of \$57.5 million in CARES Act funding for rural transit districts to support continuing operations.



REBUILD ILLINOIS

Passed in 2019, Gov. Pritzker's historic and bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan is investing \$33.2 billion in the state's aging transportation system, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history but also the first to touch all modes of Illinois transportation: roads and bridges, transit, waterways, freight and passenger rail, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

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IDOT COMPLETES REBUILD ILLINOIS I-255 PROJECT NEARLY A MONTH EARLY, SAVES TAXPAYERS \$14 MILLION

Gov. Pritzker was joined by IDOT along with local and state community leaders to celebrate the completion of the Interstate 255 project in late October. The project is one of the first to be completed under Gov. Pritzker's historic, bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital program.

The work rehabilitated and resurfaced approximately 7 miles of I-255 from Collinsville Road to Illinois 15 in two sections separated by I-64. The road – one of the worst in the state prior to construction – was fixed quicker, safer and cheaper by closing the work zone to all traffic for nine months instead of spreading the work over multiple construction seasons. This tactic boosted worker and motorist safety by removing traffic from the work zone while reducing the estimated project cost by \$14 million to a total of \$67 million.

“By closing I-255, we were able to deliver this much-needed project and minimize the impact to motorists and local busi-

nesses,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “We applauded the public for their cooperation. Thanks to Gov. Pritzker’s leadership and Rebuild Illinois, we look forward to completing many more projects that improve safety, mobility and quality of life in Metro East and throughout the state.”



BY THE NUMBERS



= \$2.813B
IN IMPROVEMENTS

HOW REBUILD ILLINOIS FUNDS TRANSPORTATION

MULTIMODAL FUNDING

IMPACTS

MASS TRANSIT
AERONAUTICS



\$4.5B



\$558M

RAIL



\$1.1B

PORTS



\$150M

MURRAY BAKER BRIDGE LIGHTS UP PEORIA



The 2020 renovation of Peoria's Murray Baker Bridge over the Illinois River began with a full closure on March 29. The project was done cheaper and safer by closing the work zone to all traffic for seven months instead of multiple construction seasons. The bridge reopened to traffic on schedule Oct. 31.

The project consisted of concrete deck removal and replacement, structural steel repairs, painting, road and navigational lighting upgrades, installation of

decorative lighting, scour countermeasures, and related collateral work. With deteriorated bridge joints removed, the new deck was ground smooth to provide motorists with a more comfortable ride.

As part of a joint effort with the City of Peoria, an energy-efficient LED decorative lighting system was installed that can generate several color schemes and dynamic light displays. The lights were added to provide a focal point and showcase an investment in the riverfront area of Peoria and East Peoria.



U.S. 150 BRIDGE JUMPSTARTS THE I-57/74 INTERCHANGE

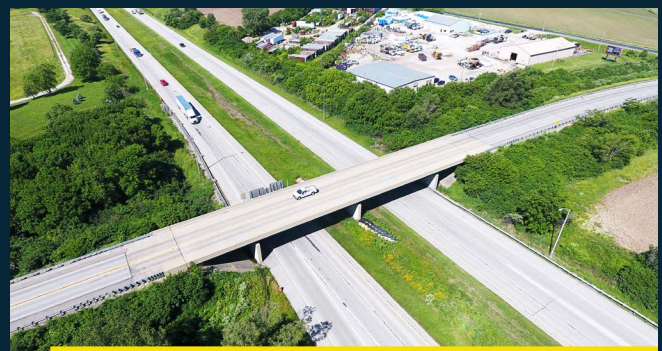
Built in 1964, the U.S. 150 bridge in Champaign-Urbana over Interstate 57 exceeded its anticipated lifecycle and was due for replacement. The \$8.4 million project started July 8 as one of the first steps to accommodate a new-and-improved I-57/74 interchange.

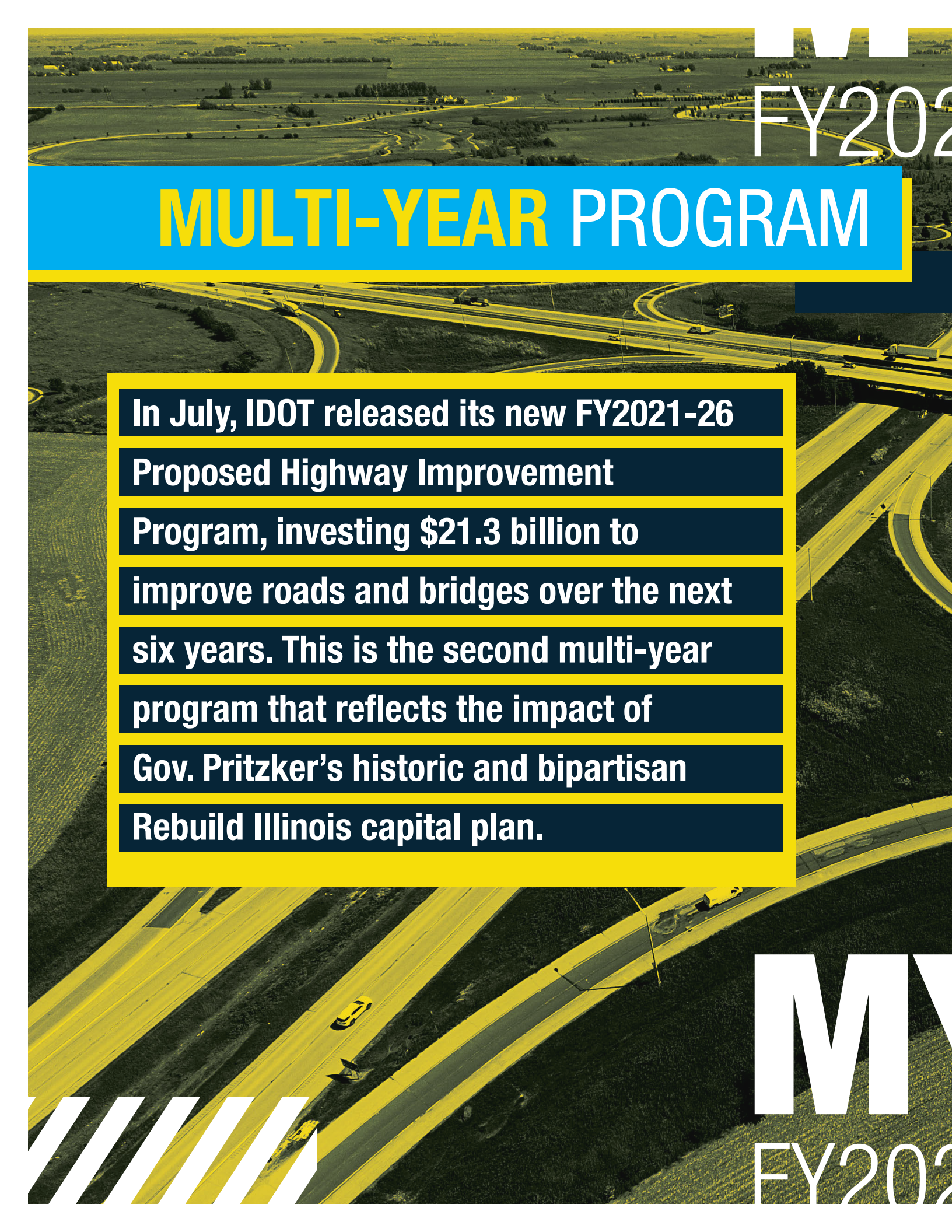
"The U.S. 150 bridge and the I-57/74 interchange represent a significant investment in the Champaign-Urbana area and one of the biggest for central Illinois in Rebuild Illinois," said Secretary Omer Osman. "Thanks to Gov. Pritzker's support and leadership, IDOT is committed to creating economic opportunity across the state by investing in infrastructure while improving safety and quality of life."

Similar work began in August on the Mattis Avenue bridges at both I-57 and I-74. These bridges will be built higher and longer to accommodate the new ramps as

part of the rebuilt I-57/74 interchange.

The I-57/74 interchange project is due to start in late summer 2021, remaking a critical regional freight juncture that handles nearly 40,000 vehicles a day. The new interchange will improve traffic flow and safety by eliminating conflict points and reducing turning movements.





FY202

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM

**In July, IDOT released its new FY2021-26
Proposed Highway Improvement
Program, investing \$21.3 billion to
improve roads and bridges over the next
six years. This is the second multi-year
program that reflects the impact of
Gov. Pritzker's historic and bipartisan
Rebuild Illinois capital plan.**

M
FY202

21-26

FY202

YP

MY

21-26

FY202

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2026 ANNOUNCED



Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman joined Gov. Pritzker in July to announce the \$21.3 billion Multi-Year Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2026 to improve Illinois roads and bridges. This critical investment in communities throughout the state is made possible by the governor's historic and bipartisan Rebuild Illinois, the first comprehensive capital program in nearly a decade.

Based on current funding levels, the MYP will improve 3,356 miles of roads and 8.4 million square feet of

bridge deck. Of the total \$21.3 billion included in the six-year program, \$3.15 billion has been identified for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2021.

Projects included in the program were selected based on objective criteria, such as pavement conditions, traffic volumes and crash history. Over the next six years, \$6.1 billion of the funding will go toward highway reconstruction and preservation, \$4.7 billion toward bridge improvements, \$2.6 billion for strategic expansion, \$1.8 billion for system support like engineering and land acquisition, and \$1.4 billion for safety and system modernizations.

Secretary Osman has also made it a priority to see greater diversity in the department and on IDOT projects. This MYP is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make IDOT even more inclusive through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises program and other initiatives to ensure the workforce better reflects Illinois communities.

STATE MILES IMPROVED

OR BUILT (OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS)

3 3 5 6

BY THE NUMBERS

SQUARE FEET OF STATE BRIDGES

IMPROVED OR BUILT (OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS)

8.4 M



MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM PRODUCES RESULTS

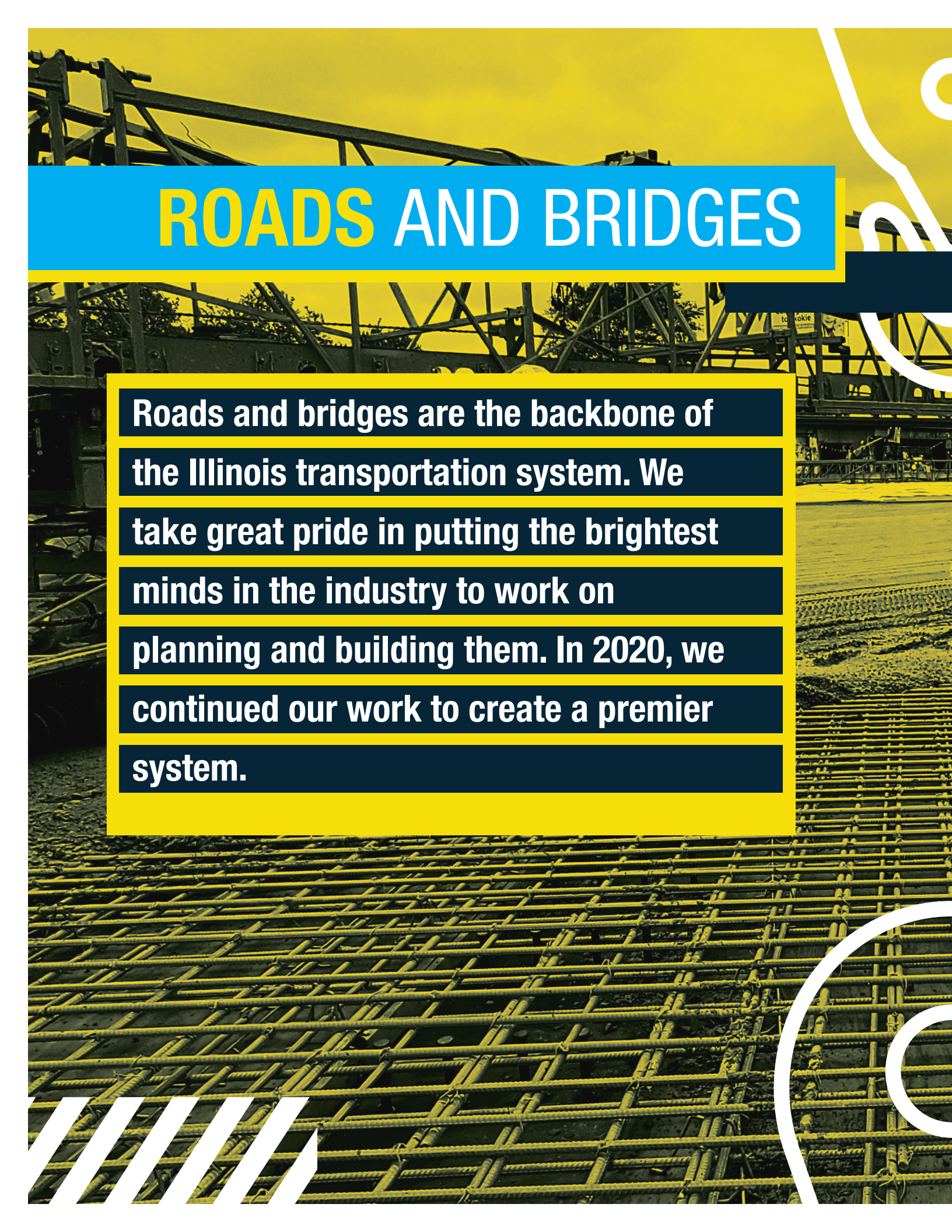
The department released its fiscal year 2021-2026 Multi-Year Program, mapping out planned road and bridge projects across the state. This program captures the historic impact of the Rebuild Illinois capital plan. Rigorous and objective criteria that weighed the condition, frequency of use and crash data across the state's transportation system were evaluated in planning the improvements.

Over the next six years, \$21.26 billion will be invested in improving 3,356 miles of road and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck. The MYP does not reflect the \$1.5 billion that will be invested via grants to local

agencies or the additional \$400 million distributed annually to local governments through the motor fuel tax distribution formula – two other pieces of Rebuild Illinois.

Embracing the principles of the Transportation Asset Management Plan, the MYP dedicates 65% of funds to reconstructing and preserving roads and bridges, 16% to strategically expanding the system in areas where data have shown the investment will be highly effective, and the remainder for necessary traffic and safety improvements.





ROADS AND BRIDGES

Roads and bridges are the backbone of the Illinois transportation system. We take great pride in putting the brightest minds in the industry to work on planning and building them. In 2020, we continued our work to create a premier system.





JANE BYRNE INTERCHANGE

Construction continues on the Jane Byrne Interchange, IDOT's largest and most complex project. The interchange is located in the heart of Chicago, with 400,000 vehicles passing each day through the Kennedy (I-90/94), Dan Ryan (I-90/94) and Eisenhower (I-290) expressways, and Ida B. Wells Drive (formerly Congress Parkway).

In 2020, IDOT closed two major bridges, Jackson Boulevard Bridge and the Adams Street Bridge, as part of the overall project. The project also celebrated a milestone with the opening of the newly reconstructed

east-to-north ramp and the Taylor Street exit ramp in the fall. Construction will continue into 2021 to complete mainline reconstruction on northbound and southbound I-90/94.

Due to restrictions regarding in-person public meetings this year, IDOT made an effort to boost its online and social media presence for the project. Virtual media briefings, e-blasts, interactive maps and social media campaigns were used as outreach tools.

The overall project remains on schedule for completion in 2022.





ILLINOIS 178 BRIDGE IN UTICA COMPLETE, ACCESS TO STATE PARKS

IMPROVED

The new Illinois 178 bridge over the Illinois River was completed and opened to traffic, improving local commerce and regional mobility while providing a new gateway to top tourism draws at Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks. Traffic on the existing bridge was switched to the new structure Oct. 7.

Construction started in 2017 on the new \$27.4 million bridge, replacing a steel truss structure built in

1962. In addition to a modern design that introduced shoulders to accommodate vehicle breakdowns, emergency personnel and first responders, the new bridge features a path that allows pedestrians and bicyclists to safely travel between the state parks and historic downtown Utica.

Demolition of the old Illinois 178 bridge is expected to be completed in early 2021.

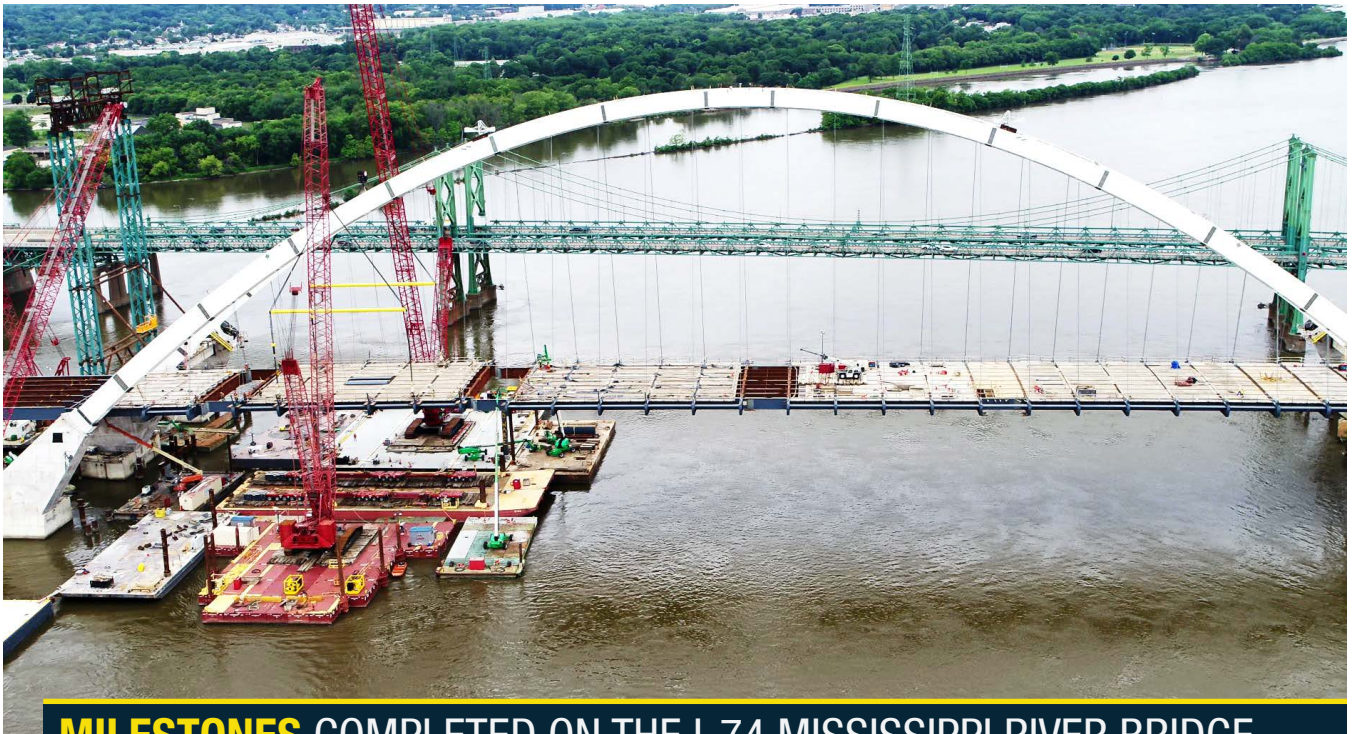
U.S. 51 IN DECATUR GETS NEW SURFACE

In 2020, a microsurfacing project was completed on U.S. 51 around the southwest side of Decatur. This 4.6-mile resurfacing project, funded through Rebuild Illinois, is expected to maintain the pavement in good condition and extend its lifespan.

Microsurfacing is a low-cost preservation process that improves the surface of the pavement. Under the department's Transportation Asset Management Plan, preservation is necessary to keep roads and bridges at

an acceptable condition before they worsen to a point that requires more expensive and time-consuming repairs. Preservation is less intrusive, less time consuming, less costly and occurs more frequently.

With the help of regular maintenance, the number of full road closures will be reduced. Maintenance will also produce a longer-lasting, smoother surface for the traveling public. This three-month project was completed in September at a cost of \$676,000.



MILESTONES COMPLETED ON THE I-74 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE

The Interstate 74 Mississippi River Bridge project met a major milestone in 2020: completing the first basket-handle, true arch.



On May 6, the last piece was lifted and set into place to complete the arch for the new westbound bridge in the Quad Cities. The final piece of the arch – the keystone – consists of two steel arch segments connected by struts. The keystone weighs approximately 215,000 pounds, or 112.5 tons. It was lifted into place by a Manitowoc 650 crane with a 341-foot boom.

The installation process went smoothly. Once the keystone was set, drivers honked as they passed

by and cheering was heard from those watching along the riverbank. While reaching a milestone like this is worthy of a public viewing ceremony, social distancing was in effect at the time of the event. The project team got creative and coordinated with media and municipalities to ensure the public could remain home and view the event from nearly every angle via live streaming on social media, local TV and project webcams.



The project also reached another major milestone: installing the last arch floor section and connecting the westbound bridge from riverfront to riverfront in the Quad Cities. On July 16, the last piece of the arch floor was lifted and set into place.

HIGHWAY MILES UNDER STATE

JURISDICTION

BY THE **NUMBERS**

15,907

MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED ON HISTORIC BRIDGE



The Red Covered Bridge, the only state-owned covered bridge still open to traffic in Illinois, underwent maintenance and repair work in 2020.

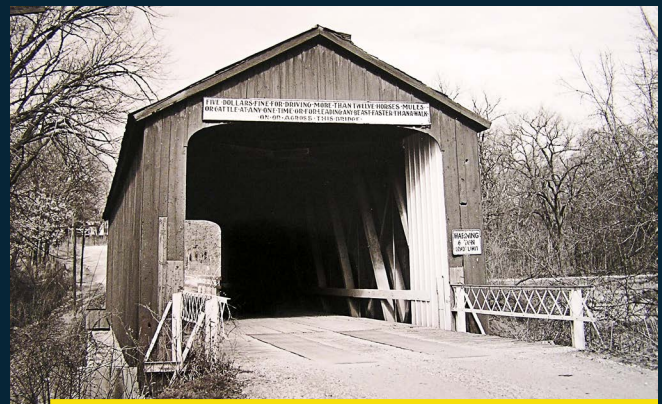
The steel beams supporting the south approach to the bridge were replaced, while the steel beams for the north approach were cleaned and painted. New timber planking was added at both ends.

The bridge was originally completed in 1864 as an important part of the Galena Trail. Established in frontier country, the trail stretched north from Peoria to Galena. Settlers were grateful for the bridge, which let them avoid crossing through Bureau Creek with horse

and wagon. It's been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975.

The one-lane timber truss bridge spans Bureau Creek in Bureau County, connecting a rural two-lane road. It sees an average annual daily traffic of 275 vehicles.

There are five state-owned covered bridges in Illinois. Besides the Red Covered Bridge in Bureau County, they include the Oquawka Wagon Covered Bridge in Henderson County, Sugar Creek Covered Bridge in Sangamon County, Thompson Mill Covered Bridge in Shelby County and Little Mary's Covered Bridge in Randolph County.





CONSTRUCTION OF PUMP STATION NO. 4 UNDERWAY

IDOT is hard at work on a new Pump Station No. 4 at Interstate 290 and the Des Plaines River in Cook County. The project will replace the existing smaller Pump Station No. 4.

Planning for the replacement began about 20 years ago as part of the preliminary engineering study for the reconstruction of the I-290 (Eisenhower) expressway between U.S. 45 and Central Avenue. Replacement of the pump station is an advance project that will facilitate reconstruction of I-290. It is one of the first components needed to support the expressway improvement, which will cost upwards of \$3 billion.

This segment of depressed roadway is about 6 miles long and is entirely drained by Pump Station 4. It is also bisected by the Des Plaines River. Runoff east of the river flows west in a pipe that goes under the river into the existing pump station located just west of the river.

Reconstruction of the expressway requires that the pump station be rebuilt to meet design criteria and modernize the aged facility. The new station will include ten pumps, two of which are standby pumps that can be used in case a main pump fails or needs servicing.

The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2021.



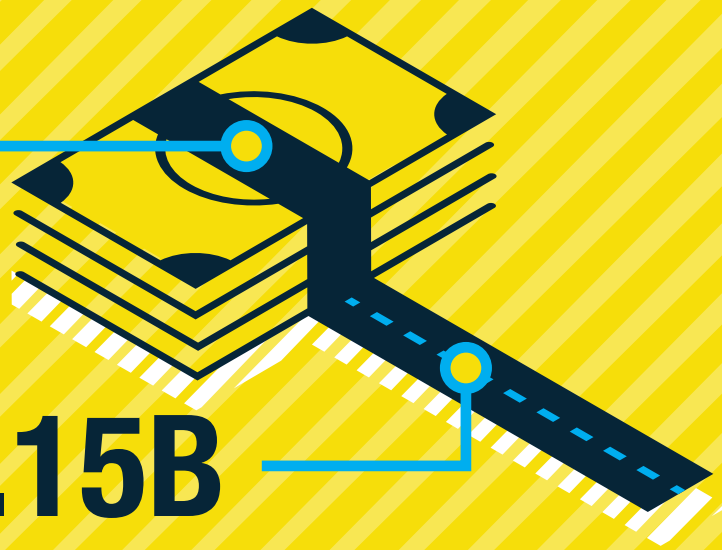
BY THE NUMBERS

FY21 TOTAL BUDGET

\$34.1B

FY21 ANNUAL HIGHWAY
PROGRAM BUDGET

\$3.15B



INTERSTATE 80 STUDY FROM RIDGE ROAD TO U.S. 30

IDOT is studying a 16-mile section of Interstate 80 from Ridge Road to U.S. 30 that spans three counties (Kendall, Grundy and Will) and six municipalities, including the City of Joliet.

This project includes new bridges over the Des Plaines River in Joliet as well as smaller bridge replacements or improvements throughout the corridor. The plan to rebuild the corridor also includes adding or extending auxiliary lanes, widening shoulders, and improving six interchanges, including a new flyover ramp at the I-55 interchange. This work will bring I-80 up to modern design standards, improve safety for motorists, and reduce congestion by adding shoulders to accommodate disabled and emergency vehicles. The

project also includes multimodal improvements, with new pedestrian and multi-use paths included in cross street bridge improvements and reduced pedestrian-motorist conflict points. Efforts are underway to gather and address the needs of the community potentially impacted by the project. For more information about that public outreach, see page 41.

As part of the project, the department plans to replace the existing twin truss bridges on I-80 over the Des Plaines River located in Joliet. These new, wider bridges would be located approximately 300 feet north of the existing bridges. The improvements to I-80 are estimated to cost \$1.2 billion and are funded by the Rebuild Illinois capital program.



MULTIMODAL

IDOT works hard every day to shape Illinois' transportation network into a truly multimodal system, allowing commercial traffic, commuters and visitors to travel safely via any mode of transportation.





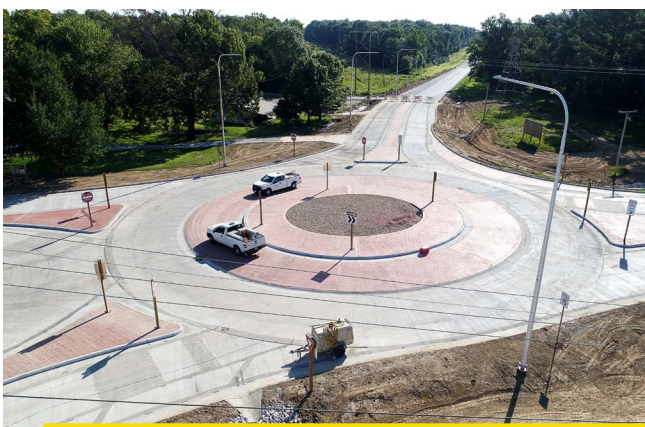
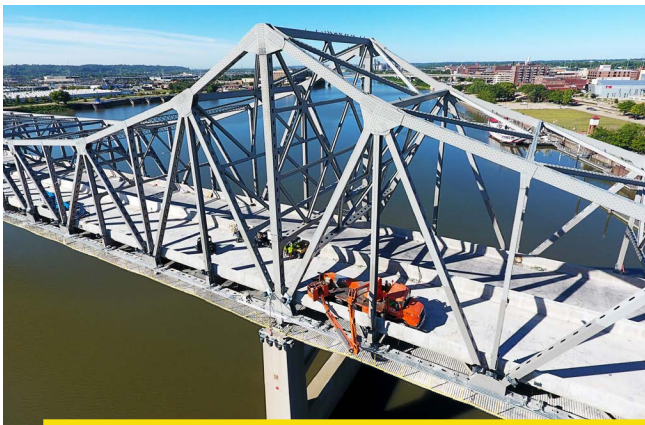


UAS SUPPORT, DOCUMENT WORK THROUGHOUT THE STATE

IDOT's Division of Aeronautics operates Unmanned Aircraft Systems – called UAS, or drones – in support of the department and other state agencies. UAS are used for a variety of purposes, including project development, construction documentation, infrastructure inspection, public outreach, and emergency and disaster support.

IDOT uses UAS to document its nearly 300 facilities

throughout Illinois. Additionally, drones are used throughout the year to document project updates to the public. Compilations of drone footage was released by the Office of Communication in 2020 to highlight various projects, including roundabouts, the I-255 reopening, the Illinois 178 bridge over the Illinois River opening in Utica, bridge demolitions and Murray Baker Bridge improvements in Peoria.



NEW RAIL CARS ARRIVE

During 2020, IDOT saw the first deliveries of new coach railcars. Siemens produced the new Venture railcars in California for the joint procurement led by IDOT, which represented the Amtrak Midwest states (Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin).



Starting in 2021, the Siemens Venture railcars will begin to be introduced into revenue service, initially on Lincoln Service trains running from Chicago to St. Louis.

Eventually other routes across Illinois and the Midwest will be added. Delivery of all 88 rail cars, including new business class and café cars, will be completed by 2023.

COMING SOON: HIGH SPEED RAIL

The Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Program has completed the vast majority of wayside and infrastructure improvements needed to increase speeds to 110 mph. IDOT is working with the Federal Railroad Administration, Union Pacific Railroad and Amtrak to finalize the signaling improvements needed to initially increase speed to 90 mph.

IDOT is expecting to reach the 90 mph milestone in 2021.

TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN ILLINOIS

BY THE NUMBERS

59

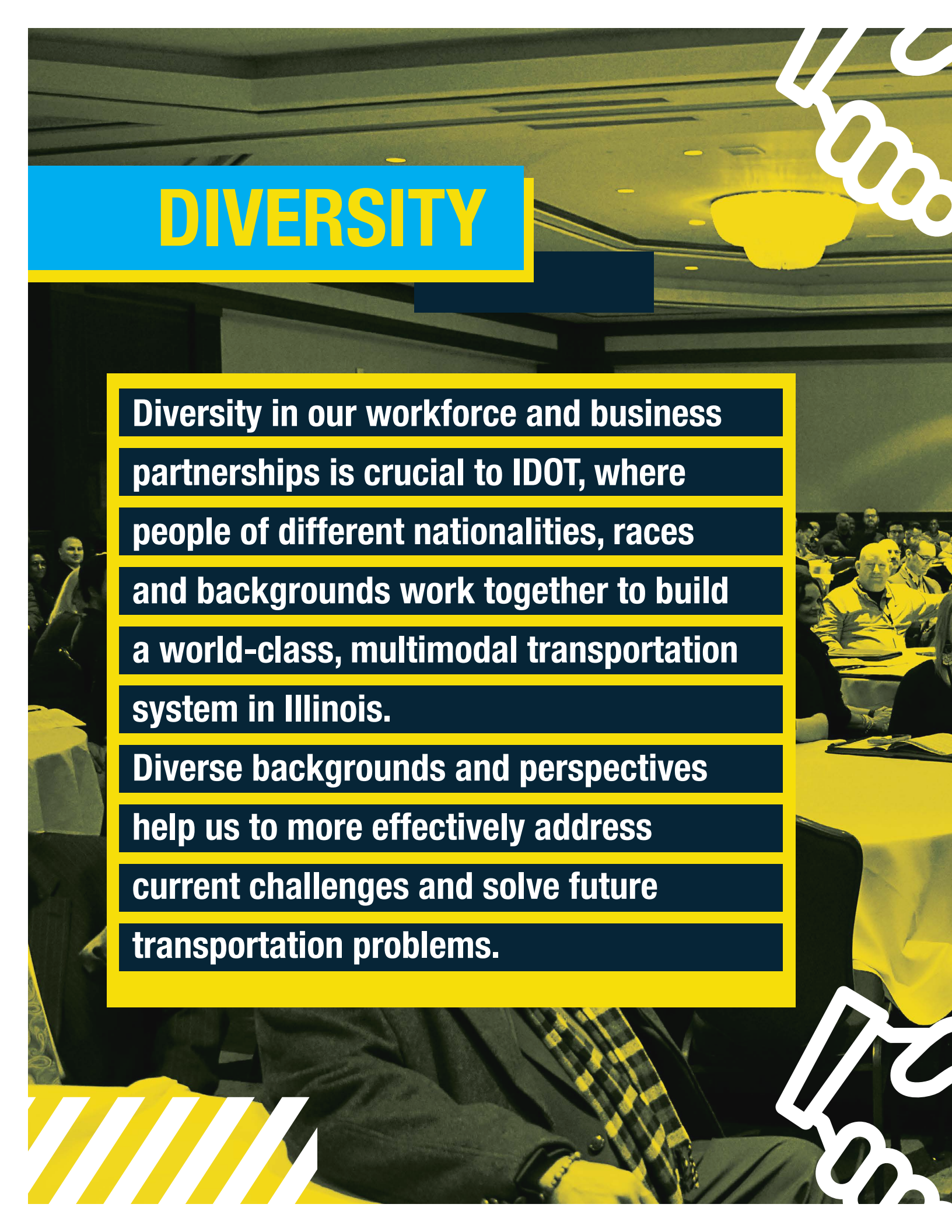
CHICAGO CONNECTIONS TO ROCKFORD AND THE QUAD CITIES

The 2019 Rebuild Illinois capital program provided funding to extend passenger rail service from Chicago to both Rockford and the Quad Cities. While both are still in the preliminary engineering stage, once completed the projects will increase the reach of passenger rail service to the western and northwestern regions of Illinois.

Negotiations continued in 2020 with host Iowa Interstate Railroad to determine final design and construction schedules to reestablish passenger rail service between Chicago and Moline and bring a much-needed transportation option to the Quad Cities area. The

reestablished line will also add a new stop in Geneseo, increasing the number of stations travelers can access. Currently, stops are offered in Princeton, Mendota, Plano, Naperville and LaGrange.

Preliminary engineering for the reestablishment of passenger rail service between Chicago and Rockford began in 2020. The proposed service would link Chicago and Rockford with two daily round trips and intermediate stops in Belvidere, Huntley and Elgin. The project will also involve entering into agreements with the host railroads, Metra and Union Pacific.



DIVERSITY

Diversity in our workforce and business partnerships is crucial to IDOT, where people of different nationalities, races and backgrounds work together to build a world-class, multimodal transportation system in Illinois.

Diverse backgrounds and perspectives help us to more effectively address current challenges and solve future transportation problems.





TCTR DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

The 30th annual Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward was a resounding success. Held Feb. 10 and 11 in Springfield before the pandemic hit, this year's conference drew nearly 400 participants representing a variety of prime contractors and subcontractors. It was the largest crowd in the history of the conference.

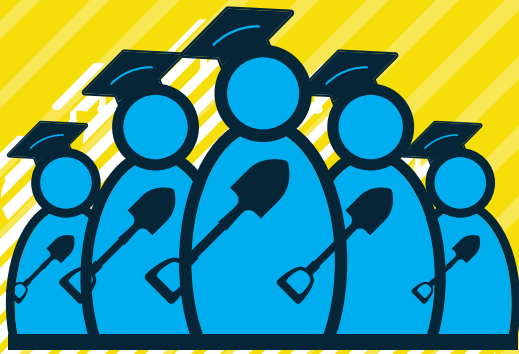
The two-day event was sponsored by IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity to provide the tools and resources that help firms participate on

state projects through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program. Staff members from other bureaus throughout the department also pitched in to provide a variety of training sessions for DBEs and other contractors doing business with IDOT.

The conference culminated in an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements and efforts of those helping to grow and support minority- and female-owned businesses.



HCCTP GRADUATES



BY THE NUMBERS

178



HCCTP PREPARES DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

As part of IDOT's mission to increase the number of minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals trained in skills that prepare them for a career in the highway construction trades, the department partners with community colleges to offer the Highway Construction Careers Training Program throughout the state.

HCCTP graduated 178 students during the last fiscal year. The program, which boasts more than 2,800 graduates since 2010, is administered by the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity's Bureau of Small Business Enterprises, in collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration.

Implemented through 12 community colleges statewide, HCCTP trains disadvantaged individuals in skills that prepare them for a career in the highway construction trades. Each participating community college holds up to five pre-apprenticeship training sessions a year. The schools use members of the local trades as instructors and liaisons to the trade industry throughout the training process to help trainees advance into apprenticeships. Once graduates complete the training, they have the general knowledge needed to become entry-level construction workers or apply for an apprenticeship program. The program is life changing for many.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESS: IDOT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Supportive Services continued their Building Blocks of Success series in 2020.

The purpose of the educational series is to help DBEs and those interested in conducting business with IDOT grow in ability and capacity. The series is set up in blocks, which are then broken down into smaller modules or workshops.

To provide a safe environment for participants in the face of COVID-19, these workshops were held virtually this year.

Three workshops were held in December covering:

- ❑ Basic plan review
- ❑ Estimating and bidding
- ❑ Overhead rate calculation, construction and professional services

Additional planned workshops will cover advanced financing, QuickBooks training, estimating and bidding, insurance, management, contract compliance, steps for certification as a DBE firm and more. The workshops are open to all, with some tailored to specific regions of the state.

BY THE **NUMBERS**

9

DBE EVENTS



ILLINOIS JOINS DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

The Illinois Department of Transportation joined fellow member agencies of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials in voting to establish a standing diversity committee in August. The committee will facilitate information and strategy sharing among member states on issues of diversity and inclusion.



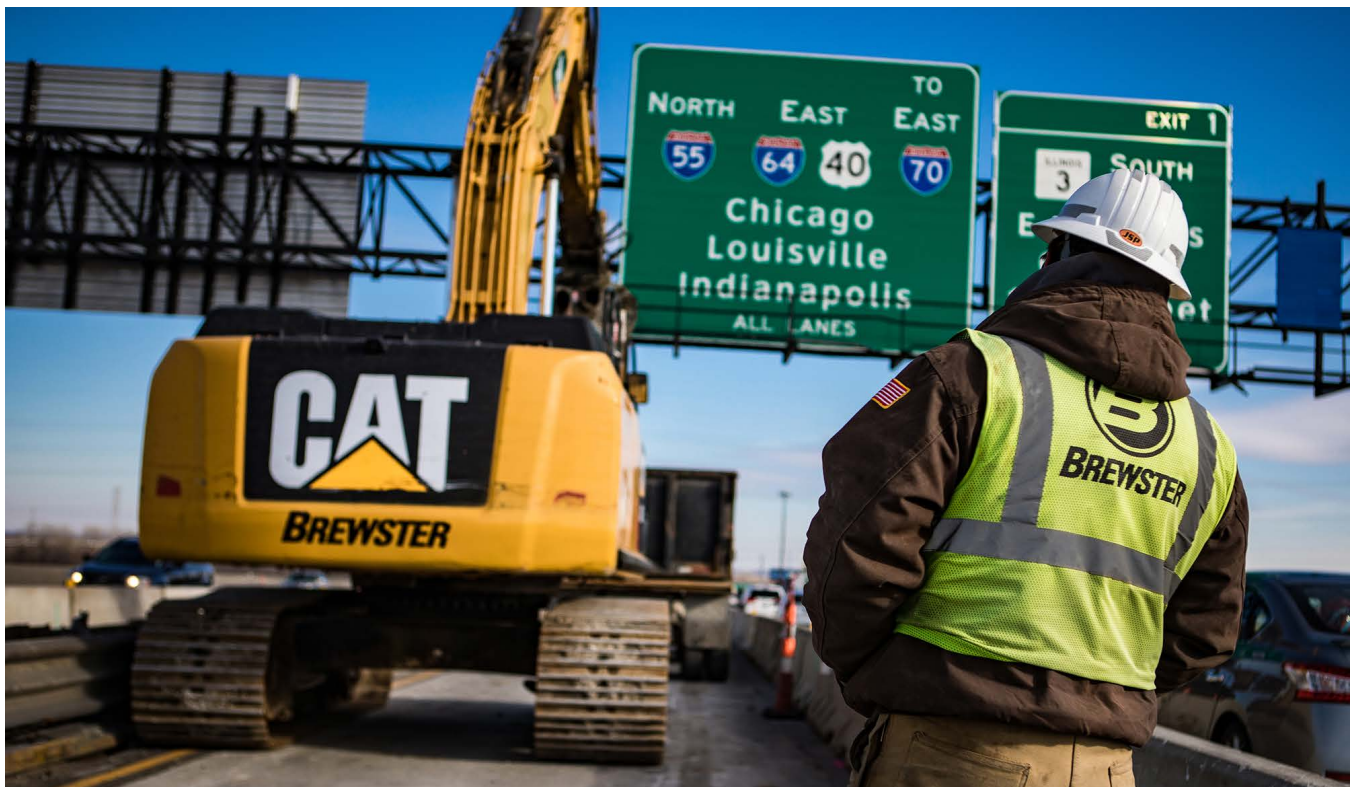
“One of my core principles is making our workforce representative of the communities IDOT serves,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Transportation truly has the ability to help Illinois realize the full potential of our communities and residents. I look forward to working with other Midwest states to establish goals and develop best practices and policies going forward.”

The committee will facilitate learning from one

another on diversity issues, as they do with shared transportation challenges.

“Transportation agencies are major employers, so establishing fairness and inclusion in our workplaces is an important impact we can have,” said Craig Thompson, MAASTO president and secretary designee of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. “We are also committed to creating more contracting opportunities for women- and minority-owned businesses and to avoid transportation projects having a negative impact on minority communities. Most of all, we strive to provide mobility options for everyone in our communities to make sure that transportation is not a barrier to the wellbeing of vulnerable people.”

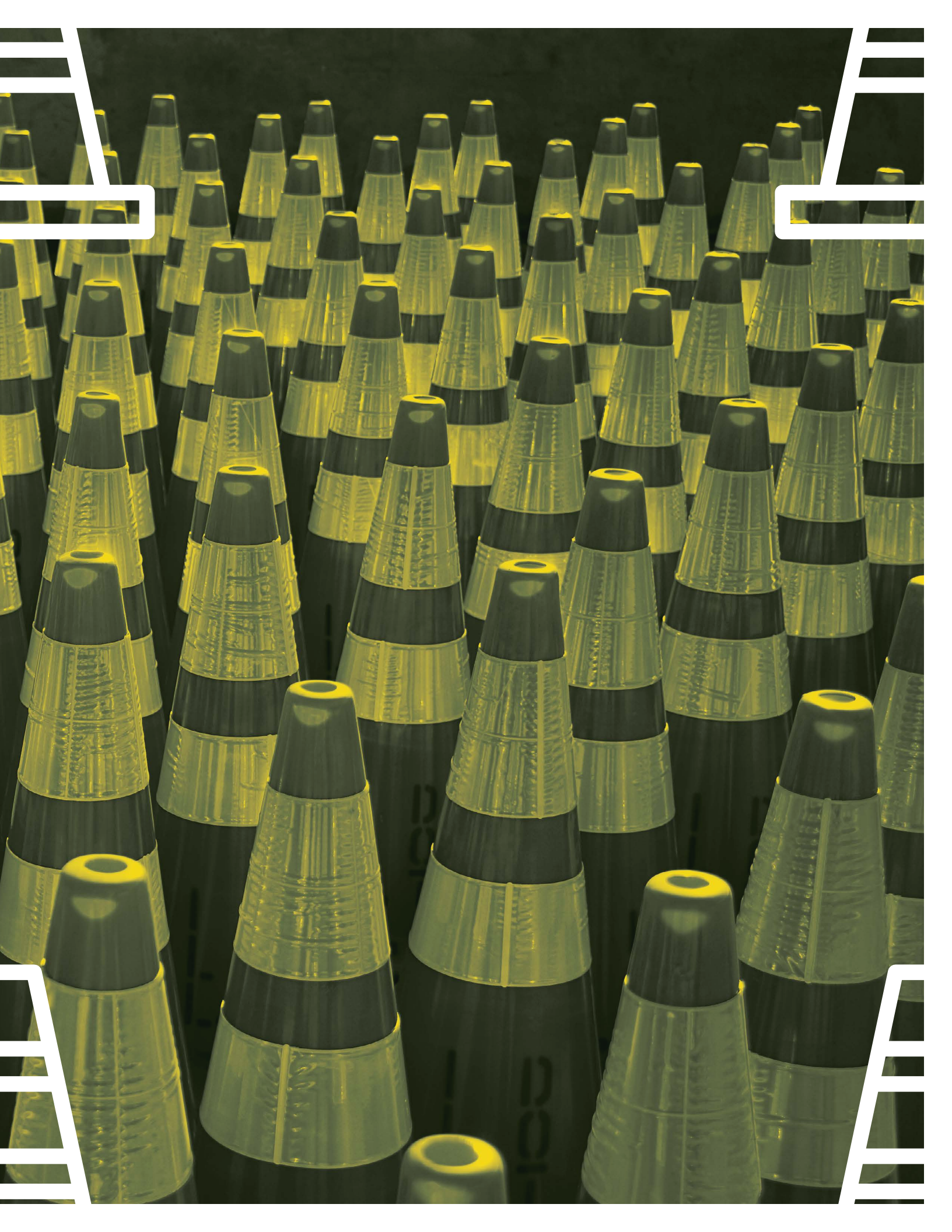
MAASTO’s mission is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated and balanced transportation system that adequately serves the transportation needs of its member states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio.

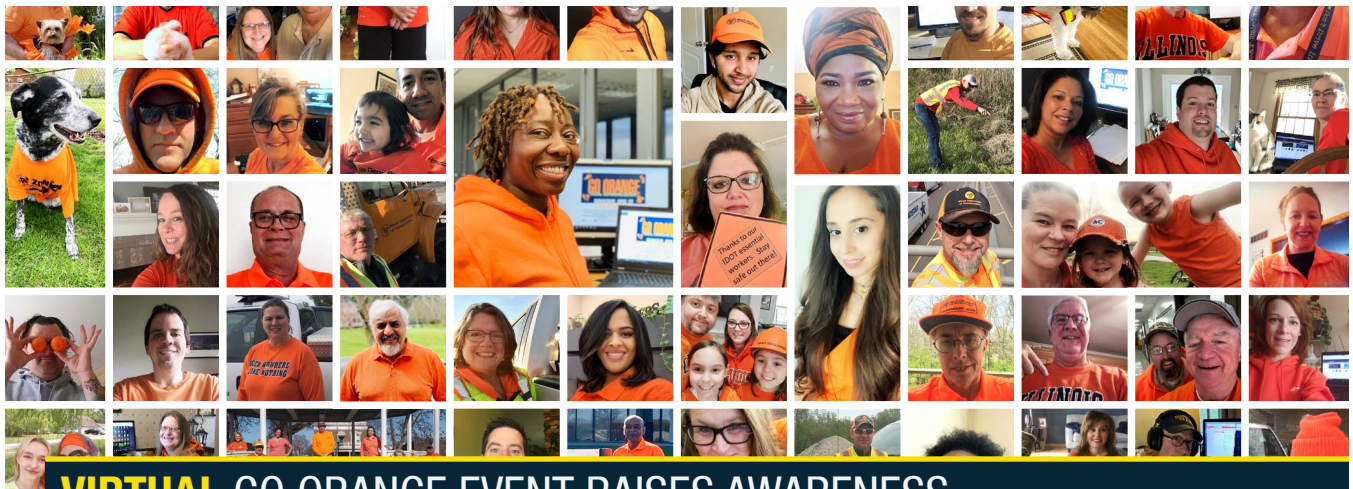




SAFETY

**Safety is always a top priority for IDOT.
Through awareness campaigns, roadside
assistance and other crucial programs,
we strive to ensure Illinois has one of the
safest transportation networks in the
country.**





VIRTUAL GO ORANGE EVENT RAISES AWARENESS

IDOT's annual Go Orange event is part of the larger observance of National Work Zone Awareness Week. The celebrations are designed to boost awareness of work zone safety in an effort to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities that take place in Illinois each year.

The event normally involves IDOT employees wearing orange to work, with group photos being taken in offices and other IDOT locations throughout the state. Due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, gathering in groups was not possible this year. Instead, IDOT encouraged employees to take and share selfies of themselves wearing orange.

A heartening number of staff members throughout the state sent in their Go Orange selfies in solidarity with the men and women who work day in and day out to help keep our roads safe, successfully maintaining this long-running tradition.

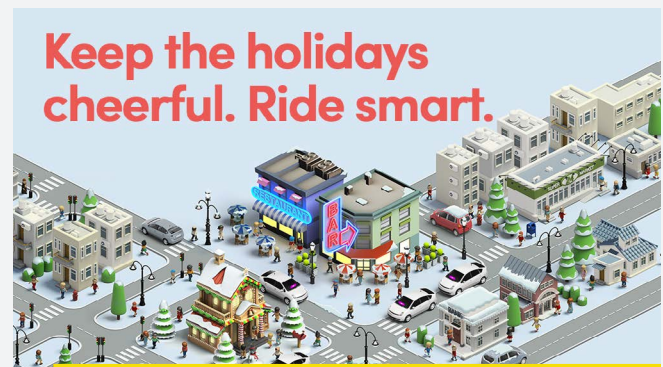
SOBER RIDE CAMPAIGN REACHES HUNDREDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From Nov. 25, 2020, through Jan. 1, 2021, a special discount code for free Lyft rides was made available to provide a safe and sober travel option to people in Sangamon County during the evening and overnight hours when most impaired drivers are on the road. The initiative was designed to encourage individuals who consume alcohol and other impairing substances to use rideshares rather than put themselves and others at risk on the road.

This is the third consecutive year IDOT has teamed up with law enforcement and Lyft to encourage drivers to get a sober ride home from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Through this collaboration, the Governors Highway Safety Association and Lyft granted IDOT \$20,000 worth of \$20 Lyft ride credits for use in Sangamon County this year.

To help ensure public safety during the pandemic, Lyft required everyone in the vehicle to wear masks, with riders in the back seat and windows rolled down when possible.

The ride credits were distributed via the Twitter and Facebook accounts of IDOT, Illinois State Police District 9, Springfield Police Department and Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, as well as other Sangamon County law enforcement agencies, including the Auburn Police Department, Chatham Police Department, Grandview Police Department, Leland Grove Police Department, Rochester Police Department, Southern View Police Department and Spaulding Police Department.



IDOT WORKERS SAVE MAN FROM BURNING VEHICLE

Two IDOT Emergency Patrol Vehicle operators in Metro East stopped to save the life of a Missouri man from a fiery car crash Sept. 25. The workers, one a 10-year IDOT veteran and the other a more recent hire, were driving their normal route on Interstate 55 in East St. Louis when they saw a car crash into a fence and burst into flames.

Seeing that the driver was unconscious, one of the workers grabbed a hammer, knocked out a window and climbed in through the back seat. Two other men stopped to assist. Together, they pulled the man out just before the car became fully engulfed in flames and then exploded. The other worker performed CPR until paramedics arrived.

These EPV operators understand the importance of their

job, which is more than just changing tires. Every day, EPV operators put their lives on the line to assist motorists, and they are often the first responders in emergency situations. These workers, like others before them, demonstrated a courageous commitment to motorist safety.



IDOT ADDRESSES DRIVER BEHAVIOR TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

IDOT is dedicated to improving motorist safety. Its Safety Program Implementation Unit, part of the larger Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering, is responsible for overseeing behavior-related safety programs funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

These programs are laid out in the annual Highway Safety Plan, which is designed to modify road-user behavior and prevent fatalities and serious injuries through education, enforcement, engineering and emergency medical services.

Throughout 2020 the group was hard at work:

- ❑ The At-Risk Behavior subunit develops programs to improve attitudes and behaviors of the driving public. Their programs address distracted driving, bicycle, pedestrian, youth, elder, impaired and motorcycle programs.
- ❑ The Impaired Driving Program looks to address the roughly 30% of fatalities and serious injuries on Illinois roads resulting from impaired driving through enforcement and education.

- ❑ The Occupant Protection Program addresses serious injuries and fatalities of unrestrained or improperly restrained adults and children. Efforts are carried out through the "Click It or Ticket" and Child Passenger Safety programs.
- ❑ The Motorcycle Safety Program consists of rider training, outreach and education. One of the most effective approaches in Illinois has been the Cycle Rider Safety Training Program, which provides rider education for basic and experienced riders.
- ❑ The Safety Projects subunit coordinates the Highway Safety Plan by managing highway safety projects led by local and state agencies. With their support, law enforcement issues tens of thousands of citations each year to help save lives and change driver behavior.

Regardless of their specialty, Safety Program Implementation Unit staff are always on the lookout for new and innovative ways to save lives on Illinois roads.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At IDOT, we work hard to provide Illinois communities with more than a safe transportation network. By offering training programs, partnering with public and private institutions, and helping ensure equal opportunity, we are making our state a better place to live.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM PROVIDES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Over the past three years, Adopt-A-Highway has made great strides in becoming a premier volunteer program. The program allows local philanthropic organizations to perform community service by helping keep roadsides clean. IDOT has also seen families and friends come together to adopt a highway in memory of a loved one. Whatever the case may be, volunteers are hitting the streets to clean up our roadsides.

In 2018, the application process was revised with an online system that allows volunteer groups to see what roads are available for adoption and apply in a matter of minutes. The user-friendly system has resulted in a significant increase in applications for the program.

With the increase in applications, more adoptions have been approved. In previous years, only a couple dozen applications were approved annually. Those numbers have significantly increased. In 2019, the number of approved applications reached nearly 100, four times as many as in previous years. Even in 2020 during the pandemic, more than 50 applications were approved.

This year, volunteers reported more than 625 bags of

garbage collected. Over 600 people participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program.



Beyond the obvious benefits, the Adopt-A-Highway program engenders a sense of pride in the volunteer groups.

“I think the program is great. A wonderful thing to do to help out your community,” said Christine Nargelenas, a volunteer on behalf of the Catlin United Methodist Church.

I-80 STUDY OUTREACH IN JOLIET

A study of a 16-mile section of Interstate 80 from Ridge Road to U.S. 30 that spans three counties (Kendall, Grundy and Will) and six municipalities addresses IDOT’S plans to replace bridges along the corridor. Specific outreach has been conducted in the City of Joliet to gather input and address particular needs from the communities impacted by the bridge replacements.

In 2020, IDOT held two virtual community partner meetings. The purpose was to gather input and address concerns regarding the land acquisition process. IDOT has also applied the following outreach efforts to gain feedback from community members

and project stakeholders: a comprehensive website, a newsletter, a questionnaire, individual outreach to potentially displaced residents and radio interviews. Two more community partner meetings are planned for early 2021.

The goal of these outreach efforts is to provide opportunities for full and fair participation by potentially affected communities. IDOT is interested in understanding the extent of community impacts and working to find potential solutions to minimize them. The feedback gathered will help the department move forward with final design and construction according to community needs.

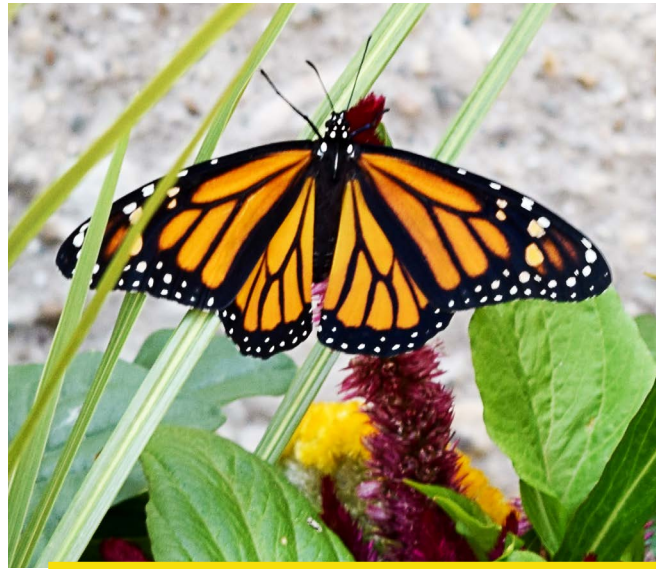
IDOT BOOSTS POLLINATOR HABITAT



IDOT helps create and maintain pollinator habitats by following the Illinois Monarch Project Mowing Guidelines for Pollinators. Pollinators such as the monarch butterfly – the official state insect of Illinois since 1975 now at risk of being endangered – play a vital role in our state's ecosystem and agricultural economy by aiding in the reproduction of flowers, fruits and vegetables. By restricting mowing to certain times of year and reducing the amount of land mowed, IDOT helps encourage growth of critical pollinator habitat.

The department is also a contributing partner in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances. The voluntary agreement, which was announced in

2020 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Illinois Chicago, has been called the largest-ever agency-industry agreement to boost pollinator habitat in the country. Participants pledge to use best practices in boosting pollinator habitat, minimize herbicide use, plant local native seed mixes and monitor habitat for quantity and quality. The conservation agreement is specific to energy and transportation rights of way in the contiguous 48 states.



NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE PHASE 1 STUDY

IDOT and the Chicago Department of Transportation continue to move forward with the North Lake Shore Drive Phase 1 Study. The study focuses on a 7-mile corridor stretching from Grand Avenue to Hollywood Avenue. This area serves a variety of transportation activities including, but not limited to, walking, bicycling, transit and driving. Much of the major infrastructure servicing those users, such as bridges and roadways, are nearly 80 years old and have exceeded their useful life.

In 2020, the project team held two stakeholder task force meetings. The task force groups focus on specific topics, including accommodation of all modes of transportation, park user access, environmental

features, businesses and access to neighborhoods and institutions. The stakeholder task force groups have met 11 times since the project's inception.

Due to ongoing health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth public meeting was conducted online through an interactive website. The website served as a clearinghouse of materials, interactive exhibits, and an audio-visual presentation to provide proposed designs and alternatives. Participants were given a 6-week period to view the website and provide input. As the study continues in 2021, additional task force meetings and another public meeting are planned to identify the preferred alternative.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IDOT works tirelessly to make Illinois an even better place to build a career, raise a family and grow a business.

Our talented team members are focused on coming up with new and innovative ways to complete this important work with the overarching goals of saving time and money while providing a superior transportation system the whole state can enjoy with pride.



IDOT RECEIVES TOP COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS FROM AASHTO



The department received two awards from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials in 2020: the Excel Award and the Spirit of TransComm Award.

**LIFE OR
DEATH**
ILLINOIS.COM

The Excel Award, the top honor for communications, recognized the efforts of the ongoing Life or Death Illinois multimedia campaign.

“Through Life or Death Illinois, we have shown that real people are dying as a result of crashes that are almost always preventable and the only acceptable number of deaths is zero,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “To receive this award from our peers, especially for our commitment to safety and protecting the public, is extremely gratifying.”

Life or Death Illinois debuted in 2018 as the first comprehensive approach by IDOT to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, seat-belt use and work zones, as well as impaired and distracted driving. An element on Scott’s Law was created in 2019. More information can be found at LifeorDeathIllinois.com.



IDOT’s Nathan Bailey received the Spirit of TransComm award, which recognizes the efforts of communications professionals who are not in leadership or supervisory positions. Bailey was nominated for his overall body of work and graphic design contributions.

“Earning a TransComm Skills Award is a tremendous honor for state DOTs,” said Lloyd Brown, AASHTO’s director of communications. “Award nominees are judged by other state DOTs, meaning that the winners’ work is considered outstanding and worthy of recognition by one’s peers. That is a truly special honor.”

CHAMP CLARK BRIDGE WINS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AWARD



A partnership with Missouri to replace the 92-year old Champ Clark Bridge earned IDOT a prestigious America's Transportation Award from Midwest states in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The project received top honors in the "Quality of Life/Community Development, Medium Project" category.



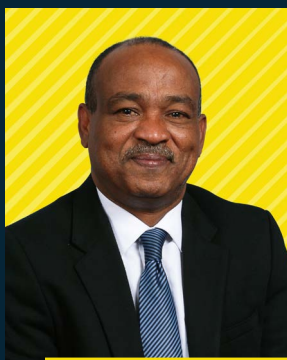
The Champ Clark Bridge connects Illinois and Missouri via U.S. 54 in Pike County. A \$60 million project split between the two states doubled the original bridge's width and eliminated a 40-ton weight restriction, while adding accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists to increase travel options and economic opportunities in the region.



Sponsored by AASHTO, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the America's Transportation Awards were created to showcase outstanding projects delivered by state departments of transportation.

The Champ Clark Bridge project, which was led by MoDOT, also received a National Award of Merit from the Design-Build Institute of America. The bridge was built using a design-build approach, allowing the project to be built more quickly and at a reduced cost.

SECRETARY OSMAN NAMED CO-CHAIR OF KEY AASHTO COMMITTEE



Secretary Osman was appointed co-chair of the Joint AASHTO-American Road & Transportation Builders Association-Associated General Contractors of America Committee in December. The

committee aims to facilitate further cooperation between state highway departments and contractors as well as spur innovation in road building.

With this appointment, IDOT will be able to strengthen relationships throughout the transportation industry.

AASHTO

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SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



3,240,000: VISITS TO IDOT.ILLINOIS.GOV



104,000: FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



19,600: TWEETS



3,100: FLICKR PHOTOS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Illinois Department
of Transportation