



# |24 ANNUAL REPORT



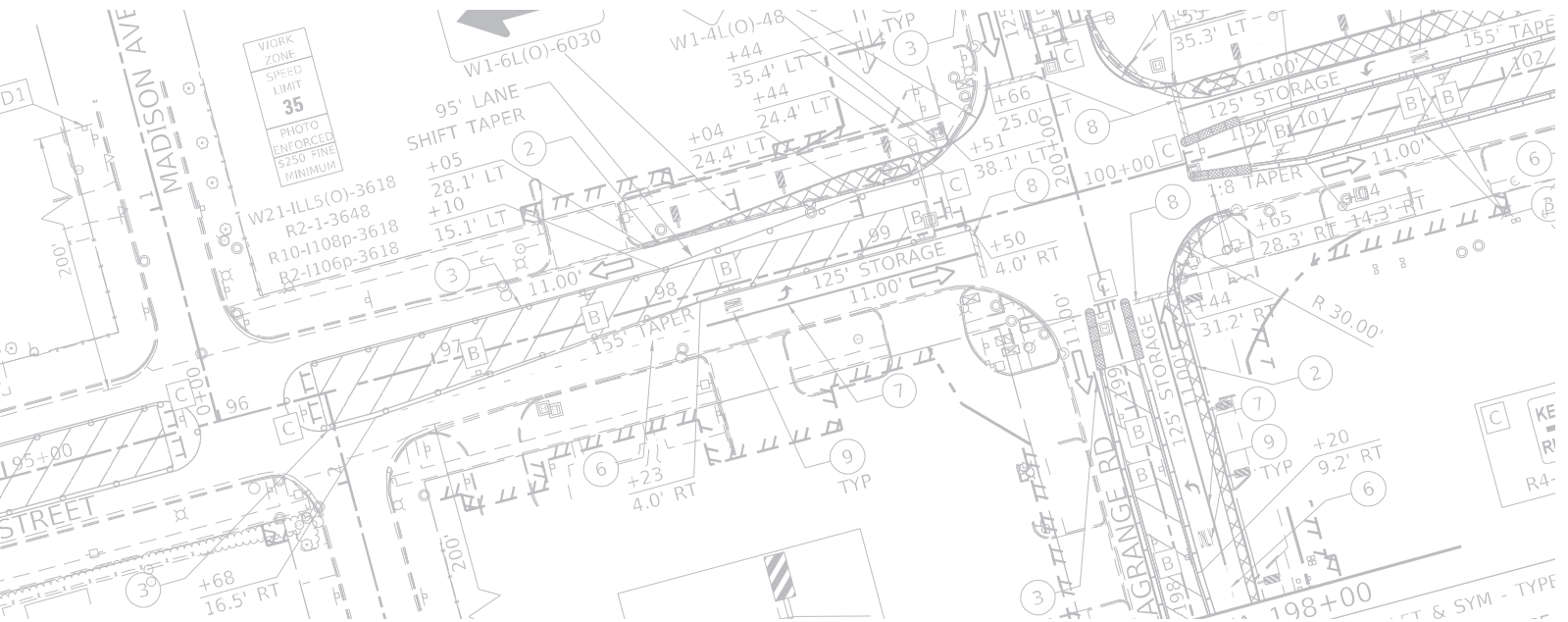
Illinois Department  
of Transportation

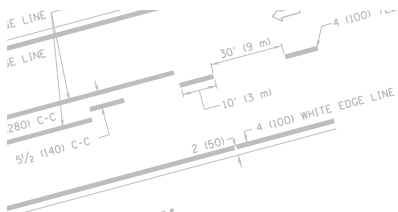




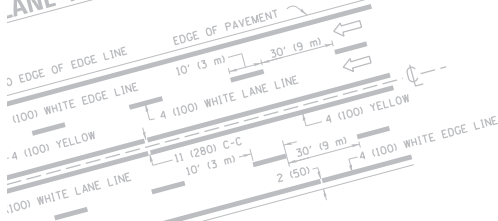


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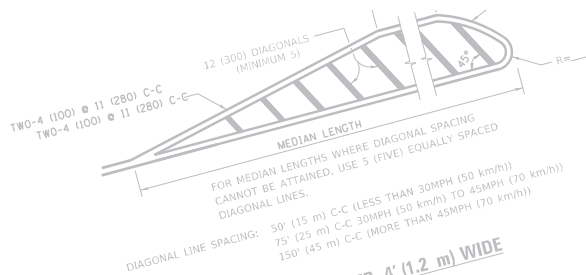




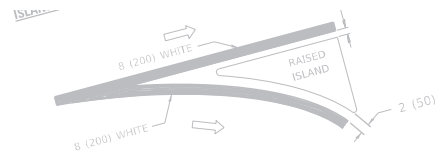
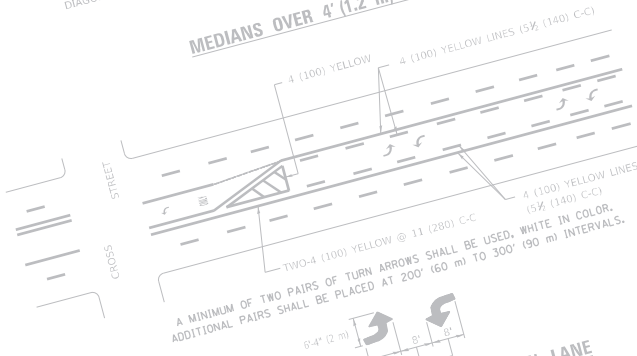
LANE ROADWAY



MULTI-LANE UNDIVIDED



MEDIANS OVER 4' (1.2 m) WIDE



TYPICAL ISLAND MARKING

TYPE OF MARKING	W
CENTERLINE ON 2 LANE PAVEMENT	4 (100)
CENTERLINE ON MULTI-LANE UNDIVIDED PAVEMENT	2 @ 100
NO PASSING ZONE LINES: FOR ONE DIRECTION FOR BOTH DIRECTIONS	4 (100)
LANE LINES	4 (100)
DOTTED LINES (EXTENSIONS OF CENTER LANE OR TURN LANE MARKINGS)	4 (100)
EDGE LINES	4 (100)
TURN LANE MARKINGS	4 (100)



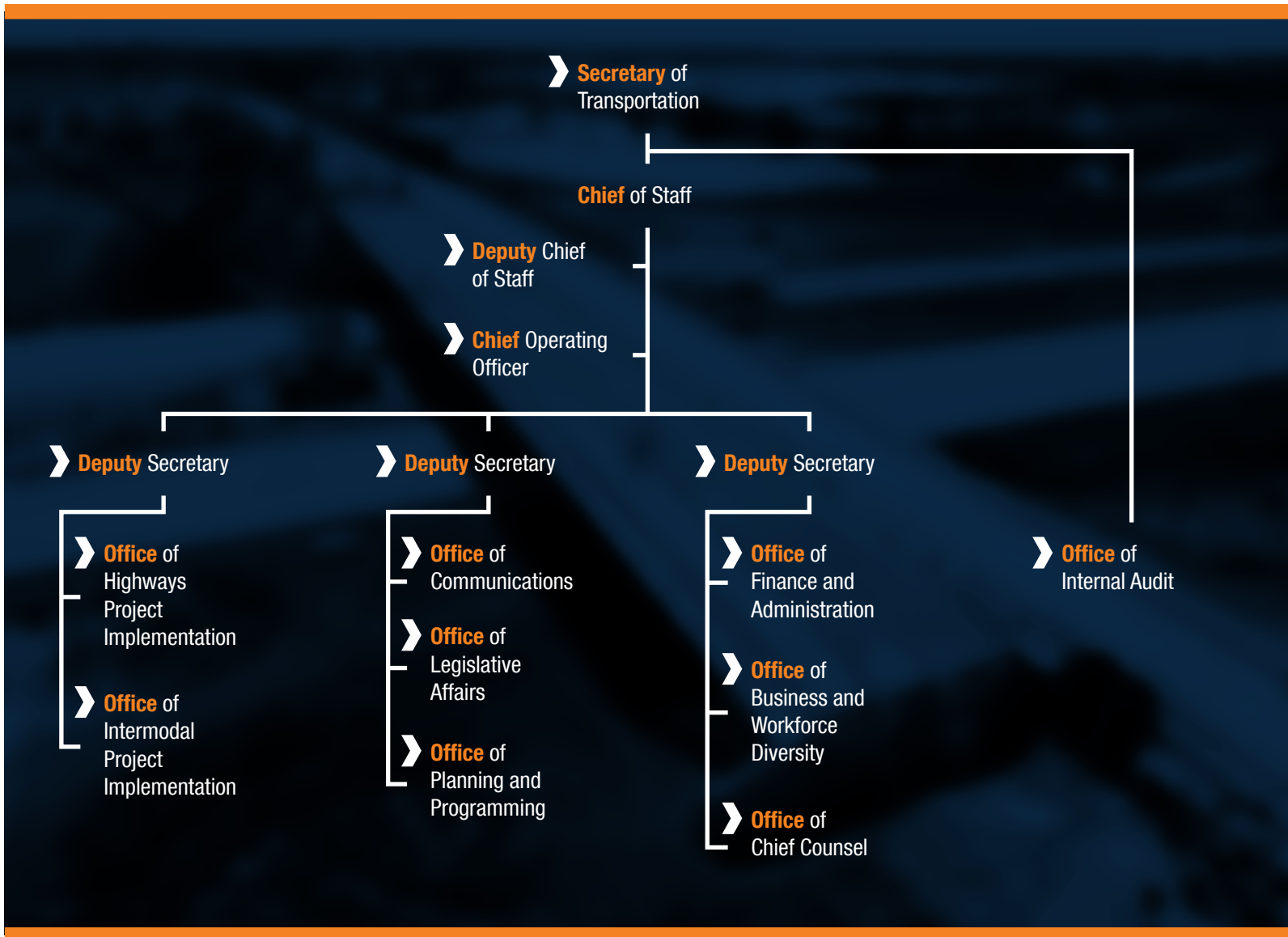
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL CHART</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>REBUILD ILLINOIS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>MULTIMODAL</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>SAFETY</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b> .....	<b>52</b>





# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY



**It's been said many times that our mission at the Illinois Department of Transportation changes from one season to the next. One day, we're dealing with work zones on multimillion-dollar projects. The next, we're responding to snow and ice.**

As 2024 drew to an end, I found myself entering a new season in life. At the close of the year, I retired from IDOT after more than 35 years.

There was no greater honor for me than leading this agency the last six years. I knew becoming secretary would be the pinnacle of my career when Gov. Pritzker nominated me. I cannot thank him enough for the opportunity.

These are some highlights of my time at IDOT:

- Helping craft and deliver the governor's Rebuild Illinois, the largest capital program in state history.
- Starting or completing transformational projects, including the Interstate 80 modernization in Will County, I-57/74 interchange in Champaign-Urbana, I-270 Mississippi River bridge in Madison County and many, many more.
- Renewing our multimodal focus by investing in transit, ports, aviation, rail, and bike and pedestrian accommodations like never before.
- Creating new momentum for our DBE program and exceeding our aspirational goal for the first time in 15 years in 2024.
- Receiving \$2.8 billion in competitive federal grants through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including \$290.9 million for the CREATE program in the Chicago region.
- Earning multiple awards for our work, elevating IDOT's reputation nationally.
- Managing the uncertainties of COVID-19.
- Keeping people safe and connected by working to provide safe, reliable transportation.

Much more about just 2024 is in the pages that follow.

This work would not be possible without top-notch staff.

The next person at the helm is poised to take transportation and mobility in Illinois to even greater heights. Former Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner Gia Biagi was nominated in December by the governor as the new secretary. She is experienced, innovative and filled with ideas.

The public has been well served by IDOT. I know they will continue to be, going forward. The work of IDOT is never done. But the quality and commitment of the people who work here will never be in doubt.

**Omer Osman**

Secretary  
Illinois Department of Transportation



# ➤ REBUILD ILLINOIS

**Through Gov. Pritzker's historic,** bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan, IDOT continued to make record investments in Illinois infrastructure, putting people to work, improving safety and enhancing quality of life throughout the state. Rebuild Illinois completed its fifth year in 2024, gaining momentum and shaping all modes of Illinois transportation: roads and bridges, transit, waterways, freight and passenger rail, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.











## ▶ CHAMPAIGN'S I-57/74 INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Major project milestones were achieved in 2024 for the \$251.8 million Interstate 57/74 interchange reconstruction in Champaign. The last beam was set on the flyover structure to carry westbound I-74 to southbound I-57 in April, beam erection was completed for the eastbound-to-northbound flyover at the end of September, and the first new ramp opened to traffic in November, connecting westbound I-74 to northbound I-57.

The project's focus for 2025 includes bridge deck

preparations on the westbound I-74 to southbound I-57 flyover, completing bridge work and preparing for paving going into the following year.

This multiyear rehabilitation project, which broke ground in 2021, is the culmination of several projects to rebuild a critical regional freight juncture serving almost 40,000 vehicles a day, with nearly 25% being freight trucks. Upon completion, the new interchange will offer improved travel times and fewer conflict points, boosting safety and efficiency.







## ► I-55 AT ILLINOIS 59 INTERCHANGE COMPLETED

Work has been completed on the \$93.5 million project to reconstruct a new interchange at Interstate 55 and Illinois 59 in Will County. Located between Joliet and Shorewood, the project converted the existing interchange with partial access between I-55 and Illinois 59 to accommodate full access in a diverging-diamond design to enhance traffic flow and safety throughout the area.

Prior to rebuilding the interchange, only northbound I-55 could exit to northbound Illinois 59, and southbound Illinois 59 to southbound I-55. With the ramps opening, both directions of I-55 can access both directions of Illinois 59 and vice versa.

Additionally, East Frontage Road was relocated and reconstructed, providing necessary distance from the interchange, with auxiliary lanes added to I-55 between Illinois 59 and U.S. 52, improving safety, boosting efficiency and reducing conflict points by better accommodating vehicles entering and leaving the interstate.

The completion of the interchange at I-55 and Illinois 59 provides a safer and more efficient transit experience for the Will County community while simultaneously boosting the local economy.

## ► DEVELOPING TWO MODERN ROUNDABOUTS IN WEST FRANKFORT

Major reconstruction of Illinois 149 at the Interstate 57 interchange (exit 65) in West Frankfort began in June to convert the Illinois 149/I-57 interchange ramp intersections into two modern roundabouts with new lighting, a new shared-use path along the north side of Illinois 149, a new sidewalk along the south side of Illinois 149, and drainage improvements.

The teardrop roundabouts are working in tandem across the overpass to efficiently distribute traffic along Illinois 149 and the I-57 ramps. This design helps improve safety and operations by reducing traffic incidents and delays for all road users.

The \$6.3 million improvement project will also include

bridge repairs, all new concrete pavement along Illinois 149, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, and safety enhancements.

The overall project is expected to be completed in 2025.







## ► KEY MILESTONES REACHED ON I-80 CORRIDOR

Major progress was made on the \$1.3 billion Interstate 80 project, a cornerstone of Gov. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois. The bridges carrying both directions of the interstate over Hickory Creek, Richards Street and Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad are now complete, a \$96 million investment that kickstarted the I-80 project. Carrying two lanes in each direction with expanded shoulders until all the I-80 work is finished, the new structures eventually will accommodate three lanes each.

In the spring, ground was broken to rebuild and widen 11 mainline miles between Ridge and River roads, River Road and Wheeler Avenue, and Rowell Avenue to Gougar Road.

Since the I-80 project started, bridges over I-80 on Shepley Road, Wheeler Avenue, Richards Street,

Briggs Street and River Road have been rebuilt, with interchanges reconstructed at Houbolt Road and U.S. 30. All bridges reconstructed crossing I-80 except Shepley Road include new or improved sidewalk and bicycle accommodations, removing the interstate as a barrier for people who walk, bike and roll.

Major elements remaining are new interchanges with I-55 and Larkin Avenue (Illinois 7), which will break ground in 2025. The final pieces include new Chicago Street (U.S. 52/Illinois 53) and Center Street interchanges, as well as new bridges over the Des Plaines River, all anticipated to begin in 2026.

The reconstruction of I-80 is replacing 50-year-old infrastructure to improve safety, add capacity and create new connections across the state.







## ➤ **HONORING** MILITARY, VETERANS AT THE WESTMINSTER DRIVE BRIDGE DEDICATION

In July, Secretary Osman dedicated the new Westminster Drive bridge over Interstate 57 in Marion. The \$7.3 million project, funded by Rebuild Illinois, honors the armed forces and improves transportation in the area. The bridge, which opened in December 2023, features red, white and blue lighting resembling the American flag. Emblems of the various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces were incorporated into the bike and pedestrian sidewalk barrier and at the four corners of the bridge.

The new bridge was raised approximately 2.5 feet over I-57, making it compliant with the latest safety and design standards. The 200-foot-long overpass has a 10-foot-wide path that connects to the Crab Orchard Greenway, a 20-mile regional multiuse trail supported by IDOT to enhance recreation and transportation opportunities in Marion, Herrin, Carterville, Crainville and Carbondale, as well as to the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and John A. Logan College.

## ➤ **EXPANDING** I-57 IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

A lane expansion and bridge replacement project on Interstate 57 from Atchison Creek near mile marker 85 to mile marker 92 south of Mount Vernon in Jefferson County began in August. The overall \$51.9 million project, which consists of building an additional lane in both directions as well as storm sewers and drainage structures, installing a median barrier, resurfacing, replacing the existing bridge and installing deck overlay, is expected to be completed by summer 2027.

Additional I-57 southern Illinois corridor projects:

- ❑ I-57, mileposts 66-75: Expansion to six lanes and replacement of bridges over the Big Muddy River in Jackson County began in spring 2022. The work is anticipated to be completed in 2025.
- ❑ I-57, mileposts 75-85: Expansion to six lanes and

replacement of bridges over Marcum Branch and Gun Creek in Franklin County begins in 2025. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2028.

- ❑ I-57/64, Illinois 15 interchange (exit 95): Reconstruction in Mount Vernon is anticipated to begin in 2025.







## ► KANKAKEE ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING

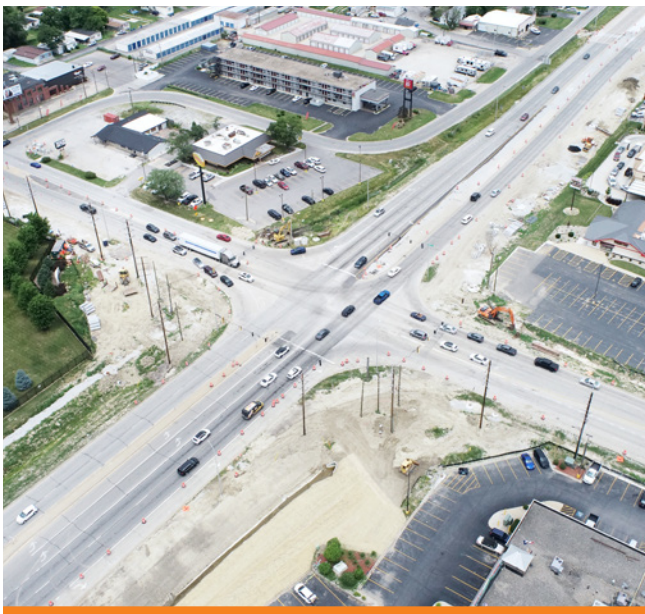
Motorists driving in and through the Kankakee area will benefit with the completion of two major bridge projects.

Work wrapped up in July on the \$23.5 million replacement of the Interstate 57 bridges over Grinnell Road and the Norfolk Southern railroad in Kankakee. Not only did the project replace two sets of old and narrow bridges, but it also completed another critical piece of the future replacement of the I-57 and Illinois 17 (Court Street) interchange.

In Bourbonnais, the replacement of the Armour Road

bridge over the Illinois Central Railroad fully opened to motorists at the end of July. The \$5.9 million project also includes a multiuse path for pedestrians and non-motorized traffic.

Work is progressing on the intersection of Illinois 50 and Armour Road in Bradley. The \$13.8 million project will provide long-needed congestion relief in an area that is surrounded by retail, lodging and industry. A majority of the work will wrap up at the end of the year, and paving will begin next spring. The project is expected to be completed next summer.







## ► INTERSTATE 70 RESURFACING AND FAYETTE AVENUE EXPANSION

Two major road projects highlighted the 2024 construction season in the Effingham area.

November marked the completion of a two-year, \$50 million resurfacing of nearly 8 miles of Interstate 70. The project, which extended from just east of the I-70/I-57 interchange to just east of the Effingham/Cumberland County line, improves safety, reliability and ride quality on one of the state's critical freight and travel corridors. The project also replaced the bridge over the Montrose Blacktop, added new guardrail and repaired multiple culverts.

Over the past 10 years, truck traffic has increased 24% on I-70 through Effingham. Presently, approximately 25,000 vehicles travel I-70 through Effingham each day, more than half of which are trucks. The I-70 improvement project helps Effingham maintain a strong economy and provides long-term growth opportunities for years to come.

Another major construction project in Effingham that saw great progress was the reconstruction and widening of Fayette Avenue. Connecting I-70 to the downtown area, the enhanced Fayette Avenue will help reduce congestion along a busy commercial corridor, increase transportation options for residents and enhance local quality of life.

The \$21.8 million project consists of widening the existing four lanes of Fayette Avenue (U.S. 40/Illinois 33) from Illini Drive to Walnut Street and adding a middle turn lane from Henrietta Street to Walnut Street. Additional elements include upgrading storm sewers, constructing a multiuse path, adding ADA-compliant sidewalks, modernizing traffic signals and installing new lighting. In addition, new concrete lanes and sidewalks were laid on Raney Street, Henrietta Street and Maple Street. The project will improve traffic flow while addressing access and safety for multiple modes of transportation. The project is scheduled to wrap up in early 2025.

## ► REBUILD ILLINOIS INVESTMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**IDOT**

### INVESTMENT



**\$17.2B**  
INVESTED OVER  
SIX YEARS

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 6,791 MILES IMPROVED
- 711 STRUCTURES IMPROVED
- 1,031 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS







## ► EAST PEORIA'S CEDAR STREET MAKEOVER PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Cedar Street Bridge and its extensions connecting Peoria and East Peoria over the Illinois River are undergoing a major overhaul. The initial \$15 million project, located in East Peoria on Illinois 8 and 116 (Cedar Street extension) stretching from the Cedar Street bridge over the Illinois River to east of Center Street, including the Edmund Street interchange, wrapped up this fall with minor work going into spring. Work included pavement patching, milling, resurfacing, bridge rehabilitation, earthwork and guardrail installation.

The second, larger \$65.4 million project, also in East Peoria, focuses on Cedar Street from east of Center Street to the South Main Street interchange where Illinois 8/116 meets Illinois 29/U.S. 24. The bridge replacement carrying the Cedar Street extension over the Tazewell and Peoria Railroad and Illinois 29 along with reconstruction

of the interchange are anticipated to take two and a half years to complete. Full closure of these bridges and interchange will allow the project to be completed faster, safer and cheaper.

Completing the trifecta is a \$7 million structural steel repair project to the 1930s-era bridge carrying Cedar Street over the Illinois River between Peoria and East Peoria, which was previously rehabilitated in 2010. Targeted for a spring 2025 letting pending land acquisition, work is expected to be completed in one construction season.

The overall estimated \$87.4 million investment aims to deliver a smooth, safe and modernized Cedar Street corridor to better connect communities, while creating opportunity for good-paying jobs in the region.







## ➤ I-270 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE REACHES MILESTONE IN MADISON COUNTY

Work to replace two Interstate 270 bridges over the Mississippi River in Madison County, a cornerstone of Rebuild Illinois, has reached the midway point with the completion of the south span. The joint project with the Missouri Department of Transportation is on track to wrap up in 2026.

The first of the twin bridge openings will occur over four weeks. The structure opened to eastbound traffic in early December 2024, shifting traffic to the new south span on two eastbound lanes. In January 2025, westbound I-270 traffic will shift to the new span using a temporary crossover just west of the Canal Bridge. Westbound traffic

also will have two lanes across the new bridge. Both eastbound and westbound traffic will use the new bridge while the adjacent structure is built over the next two years.

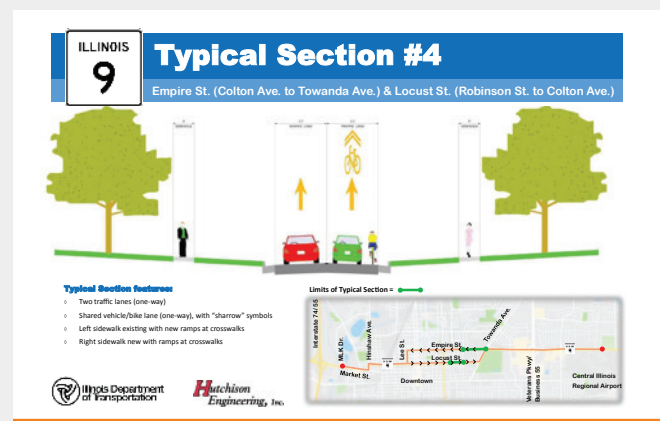
The overall \$496.2 million joint project with MoDOT will replace the existing bridges with two structures that have wider shoulders to accommodate the eventual expansion of I-270 to three lanes in each direction. A companion \$35.4 million MoDOT project will reconstruct the Riverview Drive interchange just west of the bridge.

Construction started in late 2022 and is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

## ➤ ILLINOIS 9 MULTIMODAL AND SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS

Bloomington-Normal is on track for improvements to modernize the Illinois 9 corridor, creating safer and more equitable travels for all who drive, walk or roll through central Bloomington. The \$9 million project includes resurfacing, curb, gutter and traffic signal replacements, ADA sidewalk upgrades, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, drainage updates, and bridge deck repairs. The work is separated into five project contracts and will be completed over the next several years, with the first project breaking ground in May and scheduled for completion in July 2025. That project is located on Market Street, from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Hinshaw Avenue, and Hinshaw Avenue, from Market Street to Mulberry Street. It also includes the realignment of White Oak Road, from

Market Street to Locust Street, and the addition of pavement markings on Locust Street, from White Oak Road to Hinshaw Avenue.







## ► I-39/U.S. 20 INTERCHANGE CELEBRATED IN ROCKFORD

The Interstate 39 and U.S. 20 interchange in Rockford is complete and open to traffic following a vigorous 15-month work schedule. The \$98.8 million reconstruction project is the first major piece of a larger \$302 million multiyear effort to improve I-39 between the U.S. 20/Harrison Avenue interchange and Blackhawk Road.

The project, which began in the summer of 2023, features five new or reconstructed bridges to accommodate the new ramps. Two new ramps connecting both directions of I-39 to and from U.S. 20 have been realigned with longer lanes and wider shoulders to increase capacity and improve the flow of traffic, resulting in better travel times and increased safety.



A second project in the I-39 Rockford corridor, the \$44.3 million conversion of the Harrison Avenue/U.S. 20 and I-39 interchange from a traditional cloverleaf to a modern diverging diamond design began in spring 2023. The majority of the project will be substantially complete by the end of 2025, with miscellaneous work to be completed in early 2026.

Other elements include expanding I-39 from four to six lanes with an accessory lane between U.S. 20 and Harrison Avenue, as well as replacing several bridges in the corridor. Also, U.S. 20 will be expanded from four to six lanes at the intersection of Mill Road, with the bridges crossing the Kishwaukee River replaced with wider structures. All projects are anticipated to conclude by the end of 2027.







## ► **KENNEDY EXPRESSWAY PHASE 2 REHABILITATION, REVLAC IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2024, IDOT began Phase 2 of the three-year, \$150 million Kennedy Expressway rehabilitation project. This phase included the rehabilitation of the Reversible Lane Access Control (REVLAC) system, which controls the gates and changes the direction of traffic in reversible lanes, to increase safety, reduce maintenance costs and improve traffic flow. The work included installing 120 gates, controls (local and

remote), cameras, electrical components, fiber-optic cables and terminal blocks along the 7.5-mile stretch. Additionally, new overhead sign structures and signs were installed, along with LED lighting upgrades, pavement patching and structural painting. Next year, work will begin on the final phase of the project, rehabilitating the outbound lanes of the Kennedy Expressway.

## ► **U.S. 20/ILLINOIS 84 WORK IN GALENA COMPLETED**

The \$31.5 million reconstruction of U.S. 20/Illinois 84 (Spring Street) through Galena was completed in late October. Work was split over three construction seasons to rebuild the road from Main Street, near downtown Galena, up the hill to Gear Street.

The project consisted of removing the old road and installing new pavement with left-turn lanes at various side streets throughout the corridor, improving traffic flow and safety. Curbs and gutters, storm sewers, retaining walls and relocated sanitary sewer facilities also were included. A new path for people who walk, bike and roll was added, connecting downtown Galena with businesses to the north.

U.S. 20/Illinois 84 carries an average of 10,300 vehicles a day, with truck traffic accounting for more than 11%. Prior to the improvements, the road lacked a storm sewer system, resulting in flooding during heavy rains.

The new-and-improved U.S. 20/Illinois 84 is expected to strengthen the local economy and position the city for even greater success. With its 19th century charm and architecture, Galena is one of the state's top tourist destinations, drawing well over a million visitors a year, supporting nearly 1,600 jobs and generating \$1.8 million for the region.







## ➤ EASTBOUND MCCLUGAGE BRIDGE OPENS

U.S. 150 eastbound McClugage Bridge over the Illinois River in Peoria opened to traffic in December. The \$167 million project, which broke ground in September 2019, continues.

Remaining work on the new eastbound bridge includes completion of construction of the bridge over Adams Street and remaining U.S. 150 traffic lanes on both sides of the river, construction of a multiuse path and parking

lots on both sides of the river, painting, cleanup and landscaping.

Starting in 2025, demolition of the old eastbound bridge and the bridge over Adams Street (Illinois 29) will begin. In early 2026, the westbound bridge will close, and all traffic will be diverted to the new bridge to facilitate redecking of the westbound span.





## ► MADISON AND JEFFERSON STREETS UNDERPASSES COMPLETED

Traffic in downtown Springfield will move more efficiently thanks to the reopening of the Madison and Jefferson streets underpasses between Ninth and 11th streets. The newly constructed underpasses, which opened Aug. 5, mark another milestone for the Springfield Rail Improvement Project.

In addition to the underpasses, the project also included construction of new railroad bridges to create a set of double tracks for the existing Norfolk Southern railroad, as well as the proposed Union Pacific railroad and Amtrak lines. Completion of this project took about 16 months.

By separating railroad tracks from regular vehicle traffic, the underpasses will reduce congestion and delays, improve safety and increase access for people who walk and bike. The underpasses also provide vital access for first responders to two nearby hospitals and help reduce emergency response times.

Funding for the improvements includes \$13.5 million from

the Federal Railroad Administration, \$30.8 million from the Illinois Commerce Commission and \$27 million from IDOT, including \$10.6 million through Rebuild Illinois.

A cooperative venture of IDOT, Sangamon County and the city of Springfield, the overall Springfield Rail Improvement Project streamlines railroad operations and reduces the impact of train traffic on the surrounding community by relocating all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street corridor to the 10th and 19th streets corridors.



## ► IIJA GRANTS FUND HIGHWAY PROJECTS, CREATE

With the 2021 passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, states became eligible almost overnight to compete for billions of dollars in grant programs to help address everything from creating safer local streets for people who walk and bike to building roads and bridges that are more resilient to climate change.

Because of the leadership and vision of the governor and General Assembly in passing Rebuild Illinois, IDOT and the state were in an optimal position to take advantage and secure these funds – and consistently worked alongside their partners on the local level for discretionary funding as it became available.

Since the passage of IIJA, Illinois has been awarded \$2.8 billion via these competitive grant opportunities, some of which have given major projects the nudge they need to move from the drawing board to actual construction. Among the higher profile ones: \$95.6 million to reconstruct portions of Interstate 290 in the Chicago area and \$52.8 million to rebuild and modernize Illinois 9 in Bloomington.

No project fared better in Illinois than the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, a partnership between federal, state, and local partners, as well as the freight and passenger railroads, to deliver a total of 70 projects to improve the flow of goods, services and people over roads and rails throughout the region, state and Midwest.

In 2024, a combined \$290.9 million in grants was awarded to CREATE, the largest in its history. The award will be matched by the other partners to leverage a total public-private investment of \$485.3 million to accelerate improvements to the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, considered the linchpin of CREATE.

“Illinois is the largest rail center in the entire nation – playing a vital role in the flow of goods and commerce across the nation,” said Gov. Pritzker when the awards were announced and celebrated. “These grant awards are transformational investments that will enhance rail efficiency, reduce congestion and promote growth up and down the state and across the nation.”

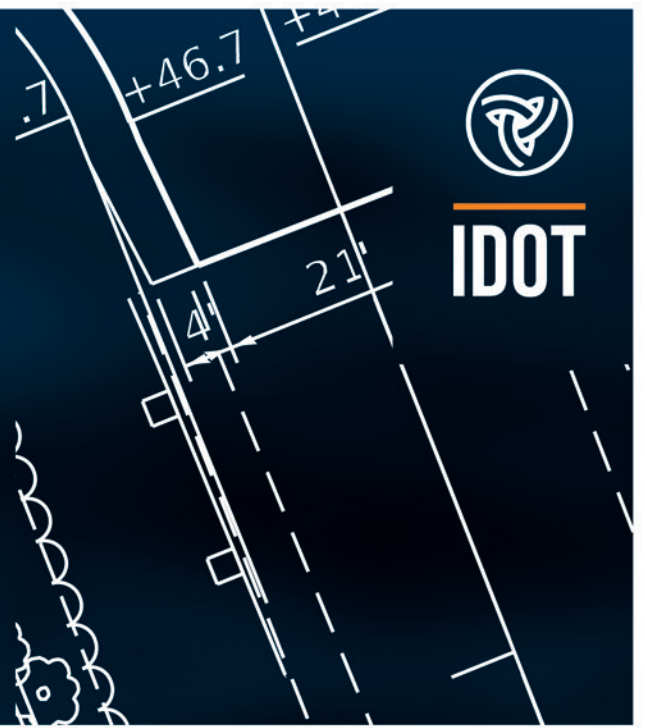


# ➤ MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM

**In June, Gov. Pritzker unveiled** the largest multi-year construction program in state history, a \$41.42 billion blueprint to fix and modernize infrastructure over six years. It is the fifth multi-year program that reflects the impact of Rebuild Illinois and continues the comprehensive approach undertaken by IDOT under the governor to invest in all modes of transportation.











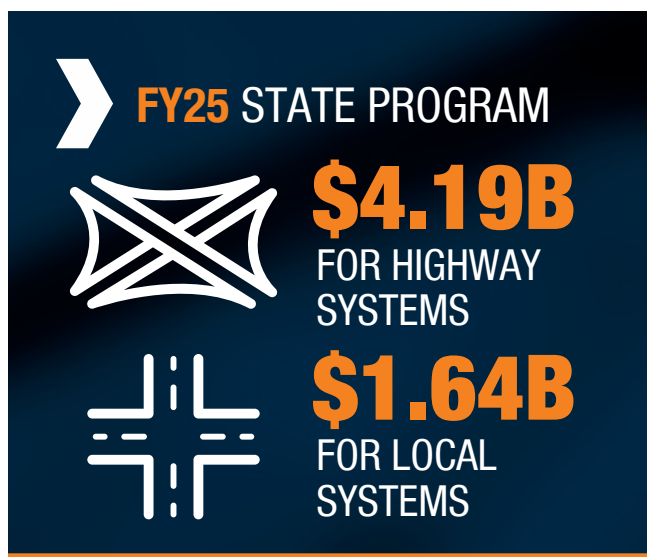
## ➤ **\$41.42** BILLION MULTI-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM LARGEST IN STATE HISTORY

In 2024, Gov. Pritzker announced the largest multi-year program to build and repair infrastructure in state history: \$41.42 billion over six years, spread across all modes of transportation and touching every Illinois county. The new program eclipses the previous record set last year and continues the momentum of Rebuild Illinois.

Building on previous Pritzker administration efforts, the new multi-year program is both comprehensive and multimodal, with investments in roads and bridges, aviation, transit, freight and passenger rail, waterways, as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

The Fiscal Year 2025-30 Proposed Highway and Multimodal Improvement Program will invest \$29.65 billion in state roads and bridges, with \$5.3 billion identified for the current fiscal year. A total of \$11.77 billion is programmed for other modes, including \$7.5 billion for transit, \$2.54 billion for freight and passenger rail, \$1.57 billion for aviation, and \$160 million for ports and waterways. Projects are across state and local transportation systems in all 102 counties of the state.

On the highways side, the program will build or improve 3,214 miles of roads and 8.8 million square feet of bridge deck on the state system, with





anticipated funding maintaining 843 miles of roads and more than one million square feet of bridge deck overseen by local governments.

The record \$41.42 billion multi-year program is due in part to engineering and planning efforts in the early years of Rebuild Illinois and the passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The previous record amount was \$40.99 billion in 2023.

➤ **THE MYP HELPS IDOT MEET OUR KEY PILLARS OF SUCCESS**



**ECONOMY**



**LIVABILITY**



**MOBILITY**



**RESILIENCY**



**STEWARDSHIP**

## ➤ **FY25 CORE WORK CATEGORIES**



**IDOT**

### **SYSTEM SUPPORT -**

**12.58%**

*Miscellaneous projects, maintenance, statewide engineering*

### **SYSTEM**

### **EXPANSION -**

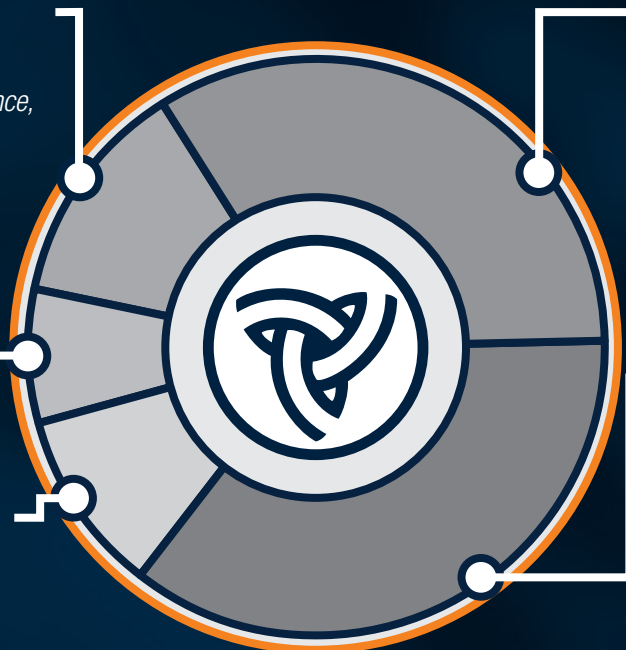
**7.69%**

*Major projects, road and bridge replacements/expansions*

### **SAFETY/SYSTEM MODERNIZATION -**

**10.22%**

*Traffic and safety improvements, interchange reconstruction*



### **BRIDGE**

### **MAINTENANCE -**

**33.67%**

*Rehabilitation and replacement, minor structure repairs and preservation*

### **ROADWAY**

### **MAINTENANCE -**

**35.84%**

*Reconstruction, resurfacing, widening and preservation*



# ➤ MULTIMODAL

**Transportation is more than** roads and bridges – it's all the ways we move people and goods across the state. Our emphasis on a truly multimodal system and our expanded focus on all the ways it can improve quality of life were on display in 2024.











## ► **CREATE** PROGRAM KEEPS ON CHUGGING THANKS TO IDOT GRANT

The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program was established in 2003 by the Federal Surface Transportation Board to solve the Chicago region's urgent rail capacity issues. Since then, CREATE made improvements for 500 freight and 800 passenger and commuter trains per day. IDOT has overseen all program activities to help ensure its success.

IDOT has a significant investment in CREATE, contributing \$657.75 million since the beginning of the

program. In 2024, with the support of IDOT, CREATE was awarded the largest federal funding award in its 21-year history. The program will receive a MEGA grant award of nearly \$210 million and an INFRA grant award of \$81 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This historic funding will propel CREATE Project EW2a: 80th Street and Belt Junction replacements, which will help further transform transportation in the Chicago region and beyond.







## ➤ **NEW** MADISON COUNTY TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OPENS

Madison County Transit undertook a major step in efforts to consolidate four aging structures with a new two-story, 26,416-square-foot building. The \$14.6 million improvement project was funded through

Rebuild Illinois, the Federal Transit Administration and Madison County Transit. A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the opening of the building in May.

➤ **IDOT BUDGET**  
**FY25 TOTAL BUDGET**  
**\$33B**



● **FY25 CAPITAL BUDGET**

**\$28.4B**

● **FY25 OPERATING BUDGET**

**\$4.6B**



**IDOT**

## ➤ **ILLINOIS** EV INFRASTRUCTURE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In September, the first round of conditional awards for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program were announced – a total of 37 awards in locations across the state. In November, information was shared about the second round of funding.

Part of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the NEVI program is providing \$148 million over five years to Illinois to establish an interconnected public EV charging network with charging stations

every 50 miles along the interstate highway system.

The 2023 Electric Vehicle Deployment Plan for NEVI funds was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in September 2023, building upon the previous plan approved in 2022. These plans detail the state's approach to deploying public charging infrastructure for convenient, accessible, reliable and equitable electric vehicle charging throughout the state.





## ► VENTURE CAFÉ CARS BEGIN SERVICE

Siemens Venture café cars began appearing on Amtrak Midwest trains in July. Owned jointly by Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin, the café cars are part of the procurement of new rolling stock led by Illinois. The 17 café cars are the last cars to be delivered as part of the 88-car purchase. To date, nine cars have been delivered, with four scheduled for delivery in early 2025 and the last four in summer 2025.

The café cars have more room for refreshments, as well as improved accessibility for wheelchairs, including lower counter heights and wider aisles with multiple turning locations. The cars also offer a coach passenger seating

area with an automatic sliding door separating the café from a wheelchair-accessible gathering area for groups.

In addition to the 17 café cars, the 88-car order includes 54 coach cars and 17 business/coach cars. All provide seats with fold-down dining trays, power and USB ports, reading lamps, wider aisles, wheelchair storage and fully accessible toilets. Sliding-plug side doors with trap doors and retractable steps allow ease of entry and exit, while interior sliding doors separate the vestibule from the seating areas to reduce noise. The cars also offer bicycle storage, luggage racks and overhead storage.

## ► 147TH STREET/SIBLEY BOULEVARD METRA STATION REOPENED

The 147th Street/Sibley Boulevard Station on the Metra Electric Line in the city of Harvey reopened, following more than two years of work to completely rebuild and upgrade the facility. The station now features a new elevator for accessibility, a new covered staircase, a kiss-and-ride lane, bicycle parking, improved pedestrian pathways, a new platform covered by a canopy and warming shelters.

The project was the first significant upgrade to the

facility in nearly three decades. The \$20.8 million project was funded by Rebuild Illinois, the Federal Transit Administration and a Cook County Invest in Cook grant. A quarter of the work was contracted to minority- and women-owned firms.

The upgraded station will enhance daily commutes for Harvey residents, making travel safer, more efficient and accessible, while positioning the community for long-term economic growth and opportunity.







## ► **NEW** EMERSON PARK PUBLIC TRANSIT CENTER OPENS

A new \$15 million public safety building opened in East Louis in July, funded by Rebuild Illinois, the St. Clair County Transit District and Bi-State Development. This two-story, 16,000-square-foot building, completed in April, accommodates St. Clair County Metrolink Sheriff's deputies, a transit operations control center and the St. Clair County CENCOM West

911 Emergency Dispatch Center.

The new Emerson Park Transit Center is owned and operated by the St. Clair County Transit District to better serve riders throughout St. Clair County and the entire Metrolink system.

## ► **NEXT** MOVE ILLINOIS TRANSIT PLAN

Next Move Illinois, a new statewide public transportation plan to create a strategic vision, recommend policy, make performance updates and identify specific initiatives for transit, is coming soon to a community near you.

A companion to Move Illinois, IDOT's long-range plan for all modes of transportation, Next Move Illinois will incorporate feedback from transit providers to help address the needs of diverse communities across the state, including ideas on enhancing accessibility, fostering long-term ridership growth, optimizing intermodal connectivity and implementing strategic measures to strengthen the transportation network against future challenges. The transit plan will place a special focus on transit operator collaboration, social

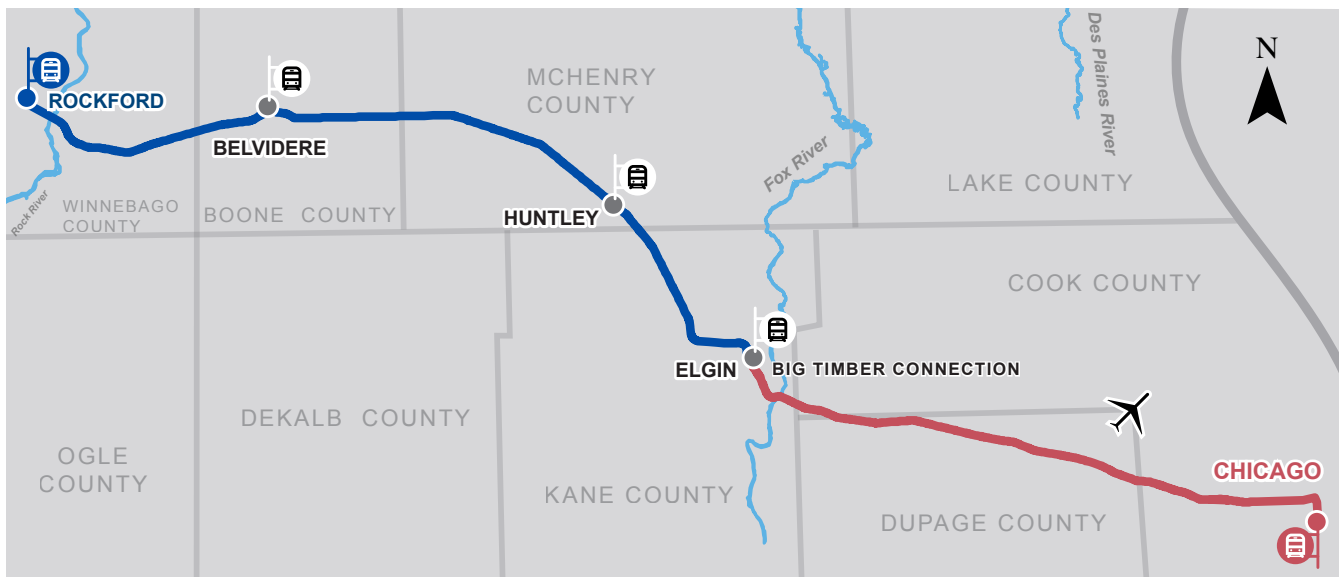
equity and accessibility, as well as emerging mobility and other new technologies.

To enable stakeholder participation, the team will facilitate an engagement process, collecting input from state and municipal agencies, the public, elected officials and others. Through stakeholder meetings, surveys and digital outreach, they will carefully consider community needs.



**Next Move  
Illinois**  
2026 Public Transportation Plan





#### MAP KEY

- Metra Milwaukee District West Line
- UPRR Belvidere Subdivision

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.

## ➤ ROCKFORD-TO-CHICAGO PASSENGER RAIL ADVANCES

A series of public meetings was held in September to share plans to restart passenger rail service between Chicago and Rockford. Each meeting was held in an open-house format, with a video presentation, exhibit boards and other project information. Staff was also available to answer questions.

Tentatively scheduled to begin in 2027, the new service will connect Chicago and Rockford, with stops anticipated in Elgin, Huntley and Belvidere. Other project components include improved grade crossings, upgraded bridges and double tracking at various locations. Stations also will be built in Huntley and Belvidere.

Travel time between Chicago and Rockford is anticipated to be slightly less than two hours, with two round trips a day. Boarding locations in Chicago and Rockford, as well as a fare structure and schedule, are still to be determined.

The project is funded through \$275 million from Rebuild Illinois. In 2023, Gov. Pritzker announced that the state reached an agreement with Metra to help restore service between the two cities that had been discontinued in 1981.







## ➤ **AMTRAK** BOREALIS SERVICE LAUNCHED

Amtrak's Borealis service, sponsored by the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, launched May 21. The new state-sponsored trains originate from St. Paul at midday and from Chicago in late morning via Milwaukee, offering coach and business class accommodations. In addition to a café car featuring regional items, customers enjoy wide reclining seats with ample legroom, no middle seats, free Wi-Fi and views of the Mississippi River between St. Paul and La Crosse, Wis.

Borealis trains between St. Paul and Chicago reached the 100,000-customer mark by late October, demonstrating high demand for the service. To celebrate, customers were given complimentary refreshments and commemorative certificates entitling every passenger to 500 bonus Amtrak Guest Rewards points. As a fun addition, each passenger received a "100 Grand" candy bar, courtesy of Amtrak.

## ➤ **NUMBER** OF TRANSIT PROVIDERS IN ILLINOIS

**59**



**44** IN RURAL AREAS

**15** IN URBAN AREAS  
(INCLUDES SERVICE BOARDS)

101 COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT.



**IDOT**

## ➤ **PEORIA'S** MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT GETS NEW FACILITY



Peoria's Mass Transit District, CityLink, is nearing completion of a new three-story building for maintenance, operations and administration that broke ground in May 2022. The improvements will modernize overall operations and boost safety.

Project funding includes Rebuild Illinois grants, local match funding from IDOT and grants from the Federal Transit Administration as part of the Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Invest program.

Improvements include 10 pull-through maintenance bays including one with an overhead crane and eight with lifts for improved safety, state-of-the-art maintenance operations for increased reliability, operators' day room with direct interior access to the bus storage garage via a new skywalk, administration center with boardroom and photovoltaic panels to generate solar energy.

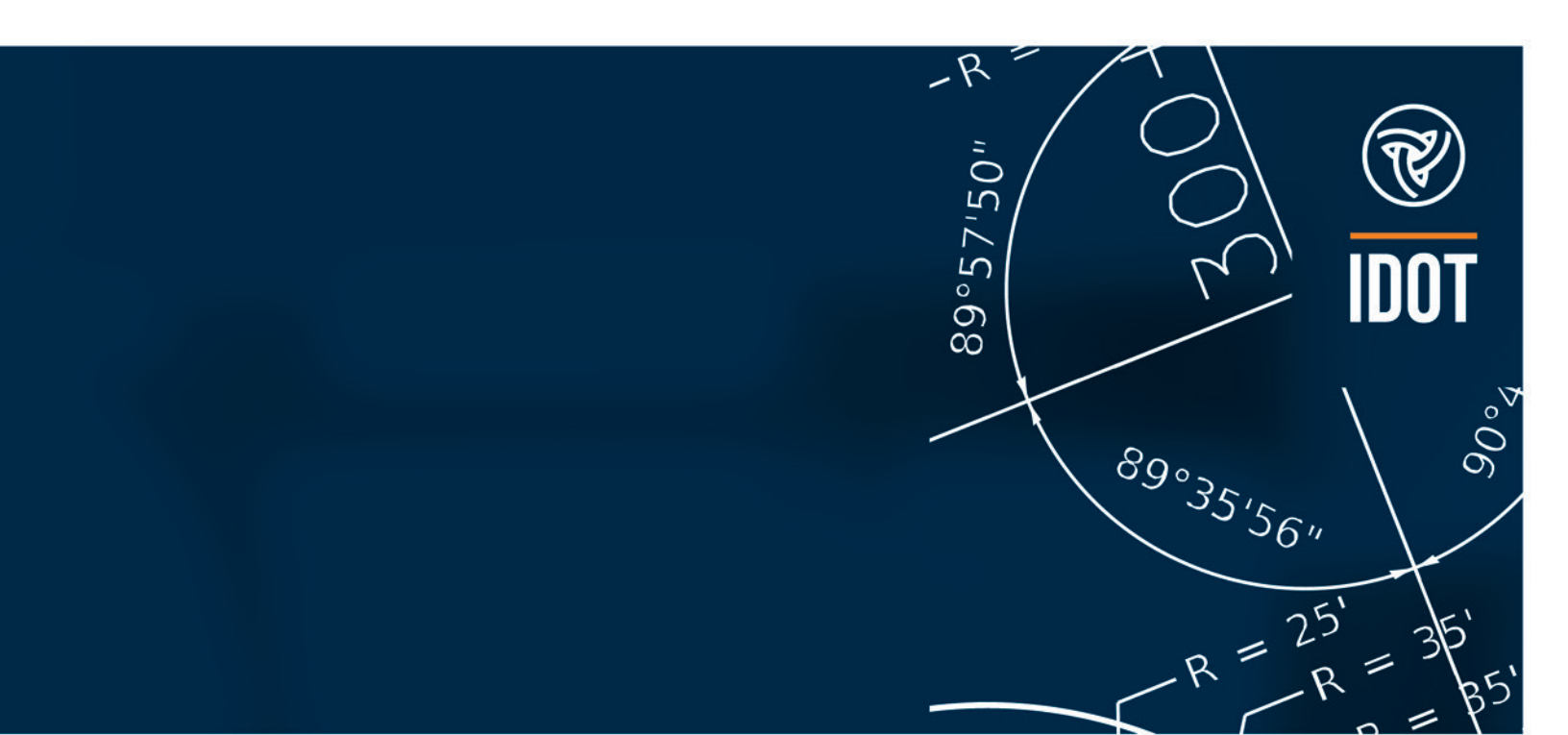


# > SAFETY

**Keeping people safe as they** move through their daily lives is a chief priority of our work. Through raising awareness, assisting motorists and facilitating other critical programs, we are reducing risks and cultivating a transportation system that is centered on the people who rely upon it.











## ➤ NEW SPEED PHOTO ENFORCEMENT VANS COMING TO WORK ZONES

On May 2, one of IDOT's five new photo enforcement vans was at the Hanley Building to give employees an up-close look, with IDOT, Illinois State Police and vendor staff on hand to share information about the vans and how they will be used throughout Illinois work zones. The vehicles are the result of a new contract with Modaxo, which allows for as-needed equipment updates and a "train the trainer" program that will put operations firmly in the hands of IDOT and ISP.

Bearing clear markings designating them as speed photo enforcement vehicles, the vans feature updated technology and a large sign that displays the speed of approaching vehicles.

Highway Safety Programs Unit Chief Juan Pava said the improved technological features are a boon to the program.

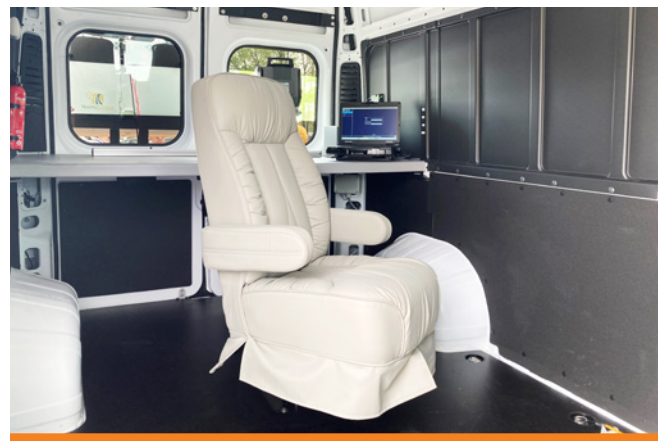
"We have new cameras with much higher resolution, as well as new safety features within the units to keep the troopers who are deploying them safe," Pava said. "Speeding is one of the main causes of crashes in work zones. The vans give drivers ample warning that they may be going over the speed limit and the incentive to slow down before a speeding event is captured."

The goal is to save lives.

"This is not a revenue generating program. The primary benefit is speed reduction and behavior change," said Work Zone Safety Engineer Nathan Peck. "That's why we use a big white van. We want it to be visible. It's all about deterrence, presence and visibility."

ISP Captain Bill Langheim said that he's seen the program work firsthand.

"When drivers see these vehicles, it slows down traffic," Langheim said. "These are effective tools."





## ► NIL RULES ENABLE COLLEGE ATHLETES TO GO TO BAT FOR SAFETY

IDOT launched a new “It’s Not a Game” campaign to promote traffic safety awareness, targeting audiences aged 18-34. The initiative leverages the influence of college athletes to spread critical safety messages, including 35 student-athletes from state universities, like the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University, who use their social media influence to address impaired driving and pedestrian safety.

With new NIL rules allowing athletes to use their name, image, and likeness for marketing, these athletes can connect directly with their peers on social media. Studies show they achieve engagement rates significantly higher than average on platforms like Instagram and TikTok. For instance, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign athletes Luke Goode and Kayla Burbage created a St. Patrick’s Day safety video that gained considerable traction online. Northwestern quarterback Jack Lausch expressed pride in participating, emphasizing the campaign’s importance. Tori Thomas, a track athlete at the University of Illinois, noted that the initiative helps promote safety outside of athletics.

Funded by federal traffic safety grants, “It’s Not a Game” not only promotes safety but also redefines how government agencies communicate with youth on critical issues.



## ► IDOT’S CYCLE RIDER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM CLASSES RETURNING STATEWIDE

In partnership with Southern Illinois University, IDOT is once again offering its popular Cycle Rider Safety Training Program to any Illinois resident 16 and older with a valid driver’s license. These classes also come with extra credit: Successful graduates can waive the written and riding portions of the Illinois motorcycle license exam that’s administered by the Illinois Secretary of State’s office.

After a break in having classes offered in all parts of the state due to an unexpected change in vendors teaching the courses, the program is starting to get back to full speed once again.

“The Cycle Rider Safety Training Program teaches riders the skills necessary to operate a motorcycle safely and confidently”, said Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Bureau Chief of Safety Programs and Engineering. “Having a proper course for riding is the best option to be a professional rider. At IDOT, we are committed to safety for all road users. Reducing motorcycle crashes is an integral part of our

strategy in getting to zero fatalities in Illinois.”

Training motorcycles and helmets are provided in the basic courses. The classes are funded by motorcycle registration, with students paying a refundable \$20 for each course. However, according to Seck-Birhame, most riders choose to give back their course fee to pay it forward and help cover the costs for future riders.

The Cycle Rider Safety Training Program was established in 1976. SIU has been a pioneer in motorcycle education not only in Illinois, but in the nation, having established its own training program nearly 60 years ago. That makes SIU an ideal partner to administer the program statewide, Seck-Birhame said.

Because of the limited number of openings initially, registration backlogs are expected and patience is urged as the program gets ramped up across the rest of the state.



## ▶ IDOT/UIUC STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON MESSAGE SIGN EFFECTIVENESS

Posted along interstates and highways, electronic dynamic message signs serve several purposes. They can inform drivers about everything from traffic and construction to weather conditions. They also may be used to promote safe driving habits and can be straightforward safety reminders, serious warnings or humorous pop culture references.

But what types of safety messages are most effective, and for which behaviors? That's the question the Illinois Center for Transportation at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and IDOT sought to answer in a joint project.

Professor Yanfeng Ouyang led a six-month special project with Sean Martschinke, IDOT's bureau chief of Programs, Projects and Safety Outreach, to determine the effectiveness of these different types of messages on specific driver behaviors. The findings provided guidance on what types of messaging to use for targeted behaviors.

To investigate these questions, Ouyang's team developed an online simulation to gather data on drivers between the ages of 18 and 30 to simulate real-life driving conditions on a four-lane highway.

Players are positioned inside a vehicle and can control when to speed up, slow down, brake or change lanes, all while being exposed to various messaging on dynamic message signs. The participants also were given "distractions" they could engage with, such as taking phone calls or reading.

After completing the simulation, players reported their opinions of the dynamic message signs as well as their self-reported driving behaviors. The research team could also see if any driving behavior changed during the simulation when a dynamic message sign was present.







## ► WORK ZONE SAFETY FAIR A HIT AT ORANGE BARRELS GAME

IDOT again teamed up with the Peoria Chiefs at Dozer Park for year three at the Orange Barrels games — fun, construction-themed baseball mixed with some road safety education. The Chiefs first adopted the Orange Barrels branding in 2020 for a handful of games, inspired by construction that began on the nearby Murray Baker Bridge as a fun way to salute hard-working construction workers. IDOT saw this as the perfect opportunity to promote work zone safety and joined forces with the team. The collaboration even earned a 2023 TransComm award for best practice in public outreach.

For four games this season, 16,755 fans cheered on the home team while also learning about projects in the Peoria area and work zone safety. The Orange Barrels season ended with a pregame Safety Street Fair held just outside the gates of Dozer Park, where more than 75 fans participated in six interactive activity stations, driving home safety messages on important topics like speeding, distracted and impaired driving, and the importance of seatbelts. A final tent inside the gates on the concourse featured a video arcade with themed games from IDOT's statewide campaign, It's Not a Game, reinforcing more safety takeaways.

## ► PORTABLE SCALES ENFORCEMENT HELPS KEEP PUBLIC, ROADS SAFE

IDOT's Portable Scales Detail assists the Illinois State Police with commercial vehicle enforcement in parts of northern, central and western Illinois.

Made up of 12 two-person teams, the Portable Scales Detail is called when a trooper selects a truck to be pulled over and weighed. That's when the team sets up portable scales on the ground for the commercial vehicle to pull onto and weigh. In some cases, the state police requests teams with semi-portable scales, which can efficiently weigh a higher volume of trucks in a single location.

Because heavy trucks can do as much damage to the roads as thousands of passenger vehicles, weights must be properly managed to protect the roads.

The portable scales detail is making a difference. Portable scales team member Dave Vatland noted that compliance has increased in the past few years. Weight Enforcement Engineer Keith Donovan said from 2018 to 2022, the

portable scales detail has:

- ❑ Weighed an average 5,194 trucks on portable scales, with an average 767 citations a year.
- ❑ Weighed an average 19,433 trucks on semi-portable scales, with an average 262 citations a year.
- ❑ Resulted in an average \$2,115,603 in overweight fines a year.



# ➤ COMMUNITY IMPACT

**Our purpose is defined by** the people of Illinois, and we're committed to exceeding their expectations as a public agency. We strive to be a visible presence and offer meaningful opportunities to engage with our communities.





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IDOT

176 (TELEGRAPH)







## ► RESEARCH SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION

The first Research Showcase was held Oct. 9 in the Hanley Building auditorium. Attendees had the opportunity to talk with researchers and Technical Review Panel members to learn more about the collaboration between IDOT's Bureau of Research and the Illinois Center for Transportation. The event brought together industry members and academic professionals to share details about their efforts to improve the transportation system in Illinois along with new research opportunities.

Three IDOT staff members helped kick off the event. Chief Operating Officer John Donovan gave opening remarks, Bureau Chief of Research John Senger provided an overview of the research program and Bureau Chief of Program, Project and Safety Outreach Sean Martschinke shared details of his ICT-IDOT research project on dynamic message signs and how IDOT implemented the results.

Exhibitors shared their research through poster presentations. One exhibit related to dynamic message signs had both a poster presentation and a hands-on demonstration. Yuhui Zhai, a graduate student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, invited attendees to play a video game simulation developed for the project.

Other topics ranged from designing smart work zone systems to analyzing transit ridership, advancing Illinois' air mobility, predicting bridge deterioration, improving pavement design and more.

Together, IDOT and ICT have completed more than 320 projects, with more than 40 anticipated to be underway heading into 2025. Through this collaboration, they aim to steer the development and implementation of cost-effective technologies that enhance safety, reduce congestion and minimize environmental impacts.







## ► **NEWCOMB, SEIDERS AWARDED SECRETARY'S PIN FOR LIFESAVING EFFORTS**

Two employees were awarded the Secretary's Pin in recognition of lifesaving action. A Chicago minuteman rescued two women from a car engulfed in flames, while a District 6 snowbird's vigilance saved a crew filling potholes on Interstate 55 from a rogue semi.

### **NEWCOMB SAVES TWO FROM BURNING VEHICLE**

Throughout his 22 years with the department, Minuteman Steve Newcomb has come across many people in need of assistance, but on March 1, he encountered a situation he will never forget.

While patrolling the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94), Newcomb noticed a few cars pulled over on the side of the road. He turned around to investigate and found a vehicle engulfed in flames with two young women inside.

"I immediately went up to the driver, who was screaming for help. By the time I got her out of the vehicle, everybody that had been standing there was gone," Newcomb said. "I put her down and went back to the vehicle to get the passenger, who was unresponsive and couldn't come out the driver side. I went around to the passenger side and pounded on the window. I was just about to break the window when the woman picked her head up, unlocked the door and passed out. I opened the door and moved her next to the other woman."

Once Newcomb had the women away from the burning vehicle, Illinois State Police arrived and began attending to the women. With them taken care of, Newcomb refocused his attention on the vehicle, pushing it out of the way until the fire department arrived to put out the fire.

On March 20, Newcomb received the Secretary's Pin for his heroic efforts.

### **SEIDERS SAVES COWORKERS FROM POTENTIALLY DEADLY CRASH**

Three-year Snowbird Don Seiders has a gift for being in the right place at the right time. On Feb. 1, Seiders was manning the attenuator truck with a pothole crew just south of Springfield on I-55 and diligently monitoring traffic when he saw a semitrailer barreling towards them.

Seiders quickly gauged the danger of the impending situation and acted fast, laying on his truck's air horn to warn the men filling potholes so they could run for safety. While the semi made a last-minute effort to turn into the other lane, it was too late. Seconds later, it smashed into the attenuator, destroying it and continuing forward, sideswiping the driver's side of Seiders' truck and stopping right where the men had been working. If not for Seiders' quick warning, a real tragedy would have occurred.

This is not the first time that Seiders has been in the right place at the right time. Almost one year to the day, Seiders and his crew were patching potholes on I-55 when a vehicle crashed into a bridge abutment. The crew rushed to help. When they arrived, the vehicle was on fire and people were trapped in the car. Seiders helped rescue two people, including a little boy.

On March 21, Seiders received his second Secretary's Pin for outstanding service to the department.





## ► **CORS** NETWORK TAKES SHAPE

A network of fixed monuments referred to as Continuously Operating Reference Stations designed to improve the accuracy of location data used for surveying, mapping, construction and engineering took shape this year.

In August, IDOT kicked off the project to establish the first free public CORS network in Illinois with Day Labor constructing sites in Litchfield, Petersburg and Jacksonville. The stations will serve as reliable reference points to continuously record and transmit 3D location data to satellites and other Global Navigation Satellite System receivers, enabling them to determine their position with greater precision. As part of a larger network, multiple stations share data to improve accuracy and coverage of a geographic area.

The permanent structures, known as driven-braced monuments, are deeply anchored tripodal fixtures made of stainless steel rods drilled 12 feet into the ground at precise angles. Antennae located within the structures are protected by a dome to prevent damage from the elements.

When complete, there will be approximately 70 sites statewide, forming a dense, public spatial network to which those with GNSS receivers can connect. These new sites will join roughly 2,000 others across the

United States that make up the fabric of the national CORS network.

In addition to surveying, there are myriad other uses for the technology, ranging from automated planting and harvesting to Illinois State Police crash reconstructions. The CORS network also measures tectonic plate movement, providing data to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Geodetic Survey.

The project is made possible by a portion of a \$4.5 million federal Advanced Digital Construction Management Systems grant awarded to IDOT in 2023. With matching state funds, the project totals \$6.25 million, with CORS being only one facet.







## ➤ WEST COLLEGE AVENUE RIVIAN MOTORWAY TO THE NSRR PROJECT

Construction started this year on West College Avenue and Rivian Motorway to the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Normal, with expected completion in 2026. The \$15.8 million project includes new traffic signals, a multiuse path, new sidewalks and other items. The project was funded by the Federal Surface Transportation Urban, State Truck Access

Route Program, the state Economic Development Program, congressionally directed spending, state COVID relief funds and Rebuild Illinois. In addition to serving the public, the improvements will serve Rivian Automotive's expanding vehicle manufacturing facilities and workforce.

## ➤ ENGAGING GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND STAFF AT BOWMAN PUMP STATION IN EAST ST. LOUIS

In August, members of the General Assembly and staff visited IDOT's Bowman Pump Station in East St. Louis. The group toured the facility and discussed ongoing operations and projects with district office employees at the site.

"IDOT appreciates the continued interest and support and values the opportunity to demonstrate our operations and groundwater management efforts that ensure the safety of our highways and communities," said Region 5 Engineer Kirk Brown.

Built in 1957, the Bowman Pump Station is strategically located near deep water wells and has a direct connection to the Mississippi River. If the river levels rise, more groundwater will be pumped to and from Alton and Columbia. In emergencies, the pump station is equipped with a 2,100-horsepower generator to ensure continuous power supply.

IDOT monitors groundwater at five locations and operates 35 pump stations across eight counties in the Metro East,

pumping groundwater, stormwater and sewage, including sewage stations located in rest areas and IDOT's facilities.





## ▶ IDOT TEAMS UP WITH ISU FOR MARKETING CAMPAIGN

IDOT is looking for new ways to reduce fatalities on Illinois roads, and this effort has taken them back to the classroom. The Office of Communications and the Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering have partnered with marketing students from Illinois State University to create campaigns aimed at decreasing road fatalities caused by impaired driving, seatbelt non-use, distracted driving and more. This collaboration not only emphasizes the importance of traffic safety but also provides valuable industry-related experiences for the students.

The partnership began last fall, coordinated by DCC

Marketing, the Decatur firm that developed IDOT's ongoing "It's Not a Game" campaign. The project was designed to replicate the work that marketing students will encounter after graduation and to drive the importance of traffic safety while fostering industry-related experiences. Over the course of two sessions, students were briefed on the issues surrounding traffic safety in Illinois and IDOT's behavioral messaging efforts. They then spent several weeks preparing proposals for a final presentation, showcasing the benefits of innovative ideas from students and highlighting the importance of real-world experience in their proposals.







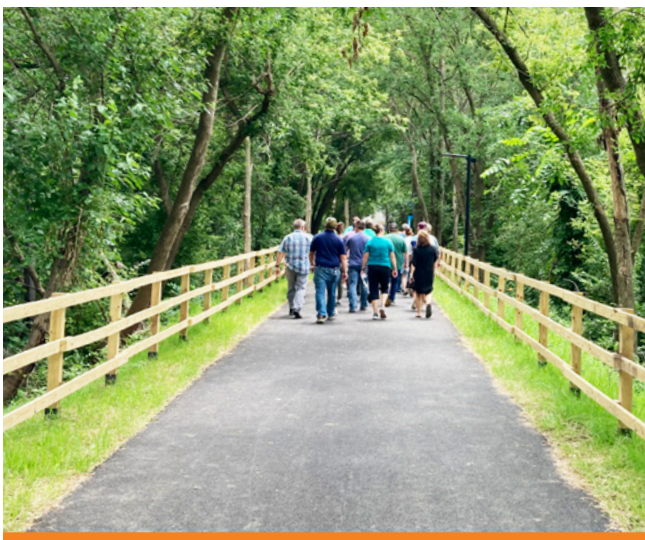
## ➤ A NEW PATH RISES ABOVE DIXON

New life has come to the old Illinois Central Railroad line that once ran through the heart of Dixon. The last train rolled through in 1985, but the first footsteps, bicycles and other non-motorized traffic are using it today thanks to a \$4.3 million project coordinated by IDOT and the city of Dixon.

Starting near IDOT's District 2 headquarters on Depot Avenue and ending at Dixon's downtown at Peoria Avenue and the Rock River, the path crosses high above city streets via three stone arch bridges crafted

from Galena limestone quarried locally in Dixon. Approaching downtown, the trail leaves the alignment via a graded wooden boardwalk designed to endure Illinois winters. Lighting and emergency call boxes line the path to add safety for users.

Plans are underway to extend the trail from the boardwalk spur across the Rock River into Page Park. There, the trail will have the capability to connect with trails that will travel outside of Dixon.







## ▶ MATTOON RECEIVES \$2 MILLION FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEW SPORTS COMPLEX

Helping to promote strong economies, IDOT awarded the city of Mattoon with \$2 million in economic development program funds for upgrading and developing roads that will lead to their new \$80 million sports complex facility.

The Emerald Acres Sports Connection, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025, is a new 150-acre indoor/outdoor sports complex that features 22 baseball/softball diamonds, 20 soccer fields, two football fields, eight basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts.

Roads that were constructed or upgraded include Swords Drive, Remington Road, Fort Worth Way, and Wooddell Lane. IDOT helped provide direct oversight for the improvement of the roads.

Not only is Mattoon experiencing the growth from the sports complex, which is projected to generate more than \$23 million in direct spending and 59,000 booked hotel rooms annually, it is also experiencing a boom in business growth. Businesses including Chipotle, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Famous Footwear, Michaels, Five Below, Bealls Home Decor, Sierra, Ross and Ulta Beauty are just some of the locations visitors will find when visiting Emerald Acres.

IDOT is proud to have helped facilitate the future success of this great development for east central Illinois and the city of Mattoon. IDOT's Economic Development Program offers funding to local agencies to assist with road improvements to improve accessibility for new or expanding businesses.







## ► **ECONOMIC** DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT HELPS BUILD ROAD TO NEW PERU BUSINESS

In June, IDOT and leaders from the city of Peru celebrated the opening of Master Builders Way, a new road benefitting from a \$1.5 million grant provided by IDOT's Economic Development Program. The program provides state assistance for road improvements or new construction necessary for access to new or expanding industrial, manufacturing or distribution companies.

The focus of the program is to create and retain

permanent full-time jobs. For Peru, the construction of Master Builders Way provides access to a new GAF roofing manufacturing plant that's opening in an industrial park near Interstate 80.

The project not only supports jobs created by GAF but provides a catalyst for future business as the road runs a half mile through vacant lots ripe for development.

## ► **DISTRICT** 9 TOURS SHAWNEETOWN REGIONAL PORT DISTRICT

On Sept. 24, District 9 and Central Office employees joined members of the General Assembly and their staff, Old Town Mayor Bill Barton and Shawneetown Mayor Steve Wood for a tour of the Shawneetown Regional Port project. The group took a deep dive into Shawneetown's history, including its economic development and the plan for road and port projects taking place at the site.

The Shawneetown Regional Port District has secured more than \$27 million in private and public funding for the port project, including more than \$10 million in federal funds from the U.S. Maritime Administration and competitive grants from IDOT. The efforts aim to enhance the safety and reliability of intermodal connections in southeastern Illinois.

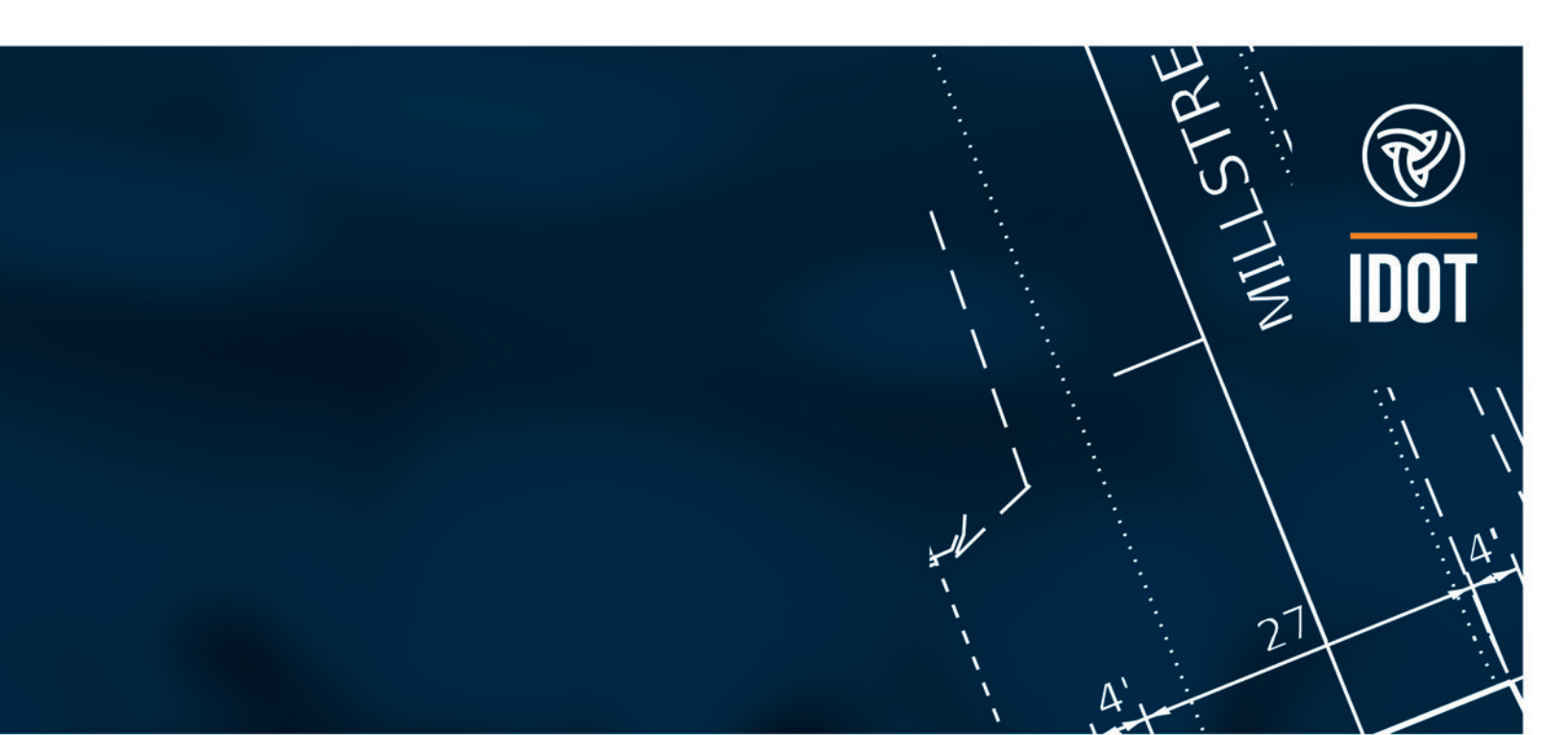


# ➤ DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

**Our workforce and industry must** reflect the people we serve and echo their voices. The end product of our work is always made better through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion.











## ► **TODAY'S** CHALLENGE, TOMORROW'S REWARD: IDOT CONFERENCE RETURNS

IDOT hosted the 33rd Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward conference on Feb. 21 and 22 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Organized by IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, the conference provides female- and minority-owned businesses with opportunities to make connections and develop skills to grow and succeed.

"Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward can open doors that lead to new, exciting paths to grow your business and positively impact your community while helping IDOT make projects more diverse and inclusive," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Under Gov. Pritzker and the historic Rebuild Illinois capital program, Illinois is seeing record levels of investment in transportation. Please join us in shaping and modernizing infrastructure for future generations."

TCTR offers workshops to build skills, seminars on best practices and networking opportunities for firms and contractors wanting to do business with the state through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Conference topics included work category expansion, funding, training opportunities, "getting paid" and construction safety. Industry leaders and IDOT staff also lead sessions on how to bid on, participate in and deliver projects. Speakers included Bradley Mims, Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and Aaron Davis, a football national champion at the University of Nebraska, author, businessman and cancer survivor.







## ➤ **NEW** DBE RESOURCE CENTER FOR I-80

As part of Gov. Pritzker's directive to include small, local businesses on the I-80 reconstruction project, IDOT has opened a new DBE Resource Center at 858 Center Court, Unit A, in Shorewood.

Furnished with a computer lab and office equipment,

the resource center will act as a free one-stop shop offering one-on-one assistance for firms that want to become certified DBEs and learn about contracting opportunities in the area without having to travel to meet with IDOT staff in Chicago or Schaumburg.

## ➤ **A** NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR THE TCTR CONFERENCE



**IDOT**



# 401

**2024 CONFERENCE  
ATTENDEES**







## ➤ **RECRUITERS** WORK HARD TO MAKE IDOT WORKFORCE DIVERSE

The Diversity and Recruitment Section in the Bureau of Personnel Management is hard at work to bring talent and focus on attracting talented individuals to IDOT. Staffed by Recruitment Section Manager Aisha Price, Northern Recruitment Manager Ivan Barajas and Recruitment Managers Tiffany McCabe, Clayton Yantis, Jennifer Boster and Deborah Williams, the team employs innovative strategies to build a diverse workforce and enhance outreach to underrepresented groups.

Key efforts include hosting successful career fairs, engaging with historically Black colleges and engineering programs, and utilizing platforms like Handshake and Indeed for job postings. In alignment with Secretary Osman's vision, IDOT aims to inspire younger students to pursue careers in transportation. These initiatives demonstrate IDOT's commitment to effectively meeting recruitment needs.







## ➤ **ROCK** VALLEY COLLEGE HCCTP GETS UP CLOSE TO ROCKFORD'S I-39/ U.S. 20 INTERCHANGE

Students enrolled in Rock Valley College's Highway Construction Careers Training Program have been on field trips to materials labs and discussed construction with local contractors. In May and November, the students did something different: They visited the IDOT construction site of the new Interstate 39 and U.S. 20 interchange in Rockford.

"To blend classroom discussion and lessons about infrastructure, bridge repair, green technology, etc., with boots on the ground seeing it all in action was too good to be true," said Dawson Ingram, Rock Valley's HCCTP coordinator.

The visits were coordinated by RM Chin, one of the I-39 project consultants, and IDOT's District 2. During both visits, students went to the I-39 construction office for

a briefing about the project before visiting the worksite. Each group got a chance to view various aspects of the construction, with the May group of students seeing the excavation of the new southbound I-39 ramp and the November group seeing the project as it neared completion.

HCCTP is an IDOT-funded program that aims to help women, underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals gain acceptance into the construction trades. During the 14-week class, participants will engage in 450 hours of skilled-trades preparation and apprenticeship readiness training with the goal of applying for and obtaining local union apprenticeship opportunities.

➤ **NUMBER** OF HCCTP GRADUATES IN 2024

233



IDOT



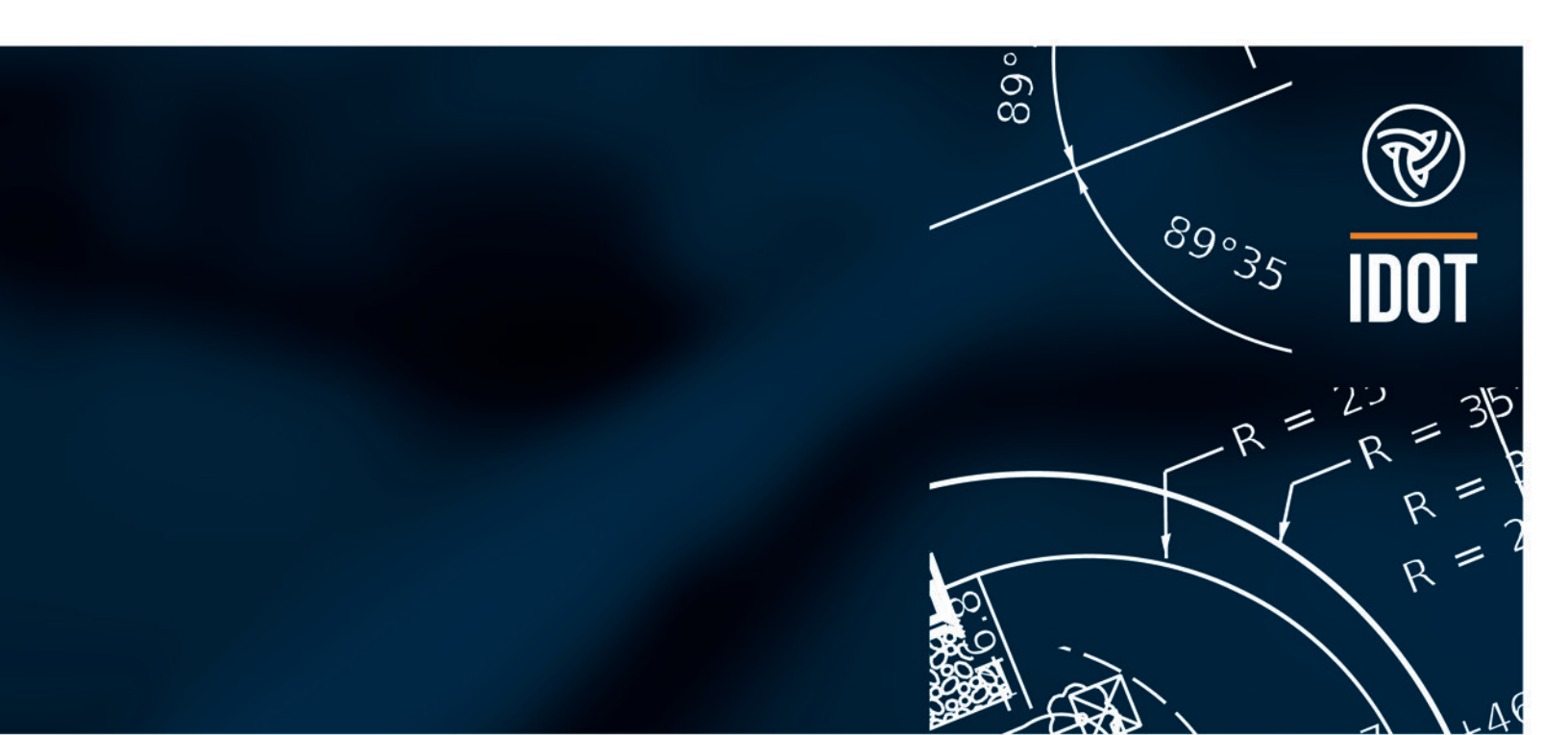


# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Whether it's the individuals,** teams or projects that garner praise, we are humbled when our work is recognized and feel a great sense of honor to have been given the opportunity to excel.











## ► THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS BRINGS HOME FIVE TRANSCOMM AWARDS

The Office of Communications won a record number of awards at the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials' Committee on Transportation Communications (TransComm) Annual Meeting on Sept. 24. The awards in the yearly skills competition are given for excellence in transportation communication, recognizing the best of the best nationwide.

Departments of transportation are allowed to submit in six categories. The IDOT team, with five wins – the most won by a single state in this year's competition – took home the top prize in all but one of the categories entered. Winning submissions included:

- ❑ **Top Communications Campaign of the Year with a Consultant** for "It's Not a Game" with the Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering and DCC Marketing of Decatur.
- ❑ **Publication of the Year** for the FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway & Multimodal Improvement Program publication with the Office of Planning and Programming and related efforts with fact sheets, social media graphics and branding under Rebuild Illinois.
- ❑ **Photo of the Year** for the Hillsboro sinkhole with District 6.
- ❑ **Best Creative Use of Social Media** for the Coney campaign featuring Claims Specialist Zipporah Williams in a construction cone costume in nontraditional places promoting safety.
- ❑ **Best External Publication** for "The Telegram" and strategies to get articles picked up and published by external outlets over traditional press releases.







## ► ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT A FINALIST FOR AASHTO AWARD

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Chicago-to-St. Louis rail improvement project, "Connecting Illinois via High-Speed Rail," was a Top 12 finalist for project of the year in the annual America's Transportation Awards, hosted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The "Connecting Illinois via High-Speed Rail" project upgraded the Chicago-to-St. Louis corridor, allowing train speeds to rise from 79 mph to 110 mph. The \$2 billion initiative improved service along the Midwest's

most heavily traveled passenger rail route while encouraging a more balanced use of transportation modes.

The project also benefited communities including Joliet, Dwight, Pontiac, Normal, Lincoln, Springfield, Carlinville and Alton. All of these communities have new or renovated stations with improved amenities, such as free Wi-Fi and expanded bicycle accommodations. Additionally, improvements like four-quadrant gates, pedestrian gates, loop detectors and fencing have increased safety.

## ► SECRETARY OSMAN HONORED AS A CHAMPION OF AVIATION



Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman was honored with the Champion of Aviation Award, presented by the Illinois Public Airports Association earlier this year in Galena. Sandra Shore, the newly elected chairman of the association and director

of the St. Louis Downtown Airport, presented it to Secretary Osman.

Through Gov. Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital program, IDOT is investing \$150 million in aviation. In 2021, the governor announced with IDOT a \$94 million commitment to airports throughout the state, unlocking \$11.5 million in local contributions for a combined investment of \$105.5 million. The funding was the largest statewide capital investment for airports in state history.







## ▶ **BOB** MICHEL BRIDGE TAKES HOME TWO APWA AWARDS

Peoria's Bob Michel Bridge rehabilitation brought home two awards from the American Public Works Association Illinois Chapter for 2023: Project of the Year and an award for transportation projects less than \$25 million. The project included a new deck, a first since the bridge opened in 1993.

The \$24.6 million project also included structural repairs, modernized traffic signals and drainage improvements. Narrow sidewalks on both sides of traffic were consolidated into a 14-foot-wide path protected from Illinois 40 by a concrete barrier,

providing a safer travel option for people who walk, bike and roll, while providing connections to the region's trail network, including the Rock Island Greenway Trail and the River Trail of Illinois. New LED lighting was installed to improve visibility and safety.

By closing the bridge completely to cars and trucks and not performing the work in multiple phases, the project was completed in less than a year, resulting in time and cost savings. The safety risk to workers and the public also was reduced by eliminating traffic moving through the work zone.





## ➤ KIRK WINS DAVE CAMPBELL QUALITY AWARD

Chief Internal Auditor Stephen Kirk was honored with the Dave Campbell Quality Award at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Internal and External Audit Conference Aug. 20 for outstanding service in auditing for a state department of transportation.

Kirk has served as IDOT's voting member on the AASHTO Internal and External Audit Committee since 2011 and as co-chair of the Internal Audit Practices Subcommittee for 10 years. During this time, he helped develop conference breakout sessions, introduced internal audit roundtables to provide a forum for internal auditors to share best practices and developed practice aids to provide specific guidance on internal audits. He also assisted with revamping the "Internal Audit Practices Guide."

Kirk has served as a member of the AASHTO Internal and External Audit Committee Board since 2019, with two-year terms each as chair, vice chair and secretary. During his tenure he introduced the information technology audit working group and internal audit practices virtual round tables, coordinated with the American Council of Engineering Companies and worked with states to update the "External Audit Practices Guide." He also added "Intermodal Day" to the conference, addressing auditing of all modes of transportation.

The Dave Campbell Quality Award is presented by the AASHTO Committee on Internal and External Audit in recognition of significant contributions to the state DOT audit community. The award is named after a former IDOT Chief of Auditing who helped establish the AASHTO Internal and External Audit Committee.



## ➤ HIGHWAY MILES UNDER STATE JURISDICTION



IDOT

15,899





# STAY CONNECTED



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# SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



**1,680,000:** UNIQUE VISITORS TO  
IDOT.ILLINOIS.GOV IN 2024



**169,000:** FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



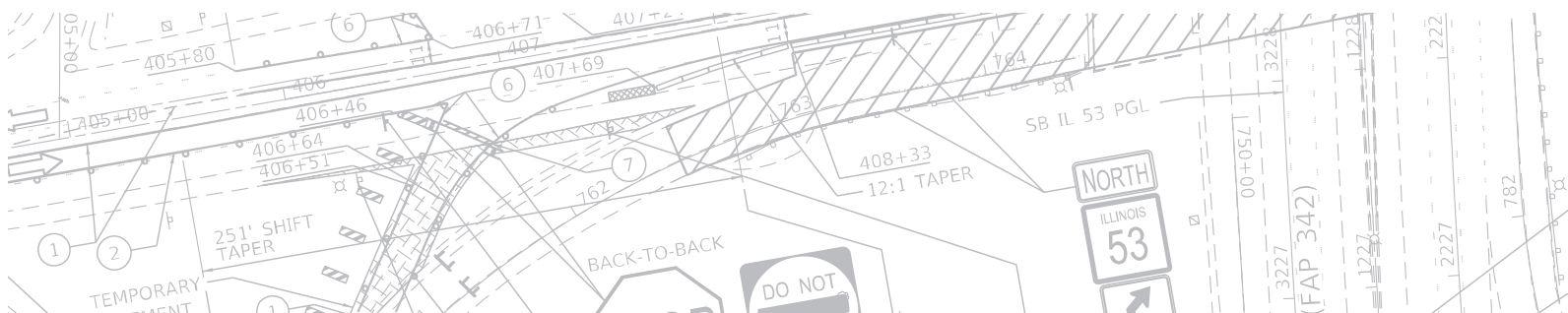
**64,900:** X FOLLOWERS



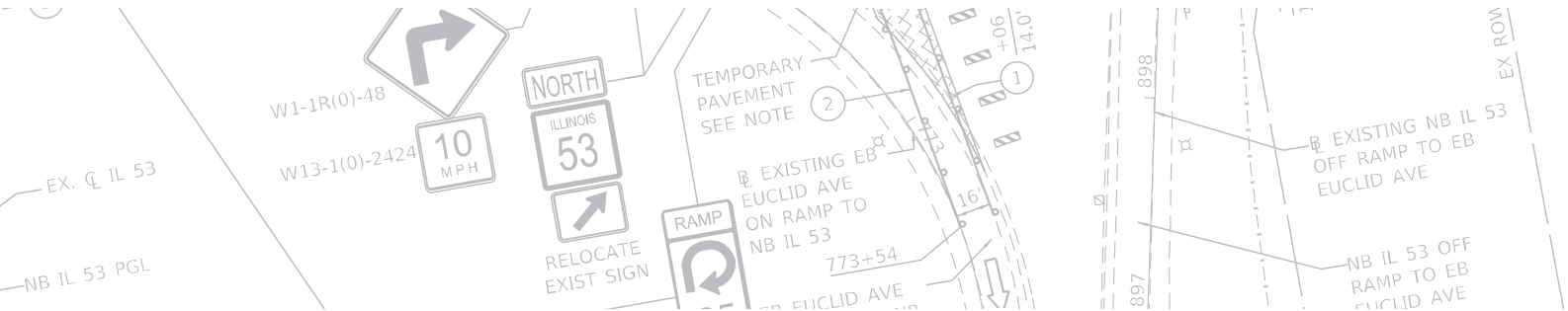
**10,100:** FLICKR PHOTOS



**8,400:** INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS









# | 24 ANNUAL REPORT

