DBE Bundling Webinar 9.8.21
Questions & Answers

Question	Answer(s)
What is there is a private question(s)?	Yes, there is an option for private questions, by using the chat function, which will only go to the project team. The Bureau email DOT.InnovativeProjectDevliery@Illinois.gov is also available if anyone would like to ask questions directly to the program team.
Thank You Sir..	N/A
Concord Excavating	N/A
Are DBEs required to work on every contract in the bundle?	The goals will be assigned to the project, just like they are assigned to our projects now. If there is a project that can sustain a DBE goal one will be assigned
How will mentor protégé program play into bridge bundling?	How or if the department will implement the Mentor protégé program has not yet been determined. One question we included in the survey requested input from the DBE community what incentives/programs would be most helpful with DBE participation.
Will there be pre-bid meetings where DBEs meet primes who are bidding on the various bundles?	That is definitely something that we are looking to have, should this advance any further, yes.
How does bundling add opportunities for DBE design firms? It seems like three smaller projects combined into one larger project would not create new opportunities.	The department plans to use the funding increase from the Rebuild Illinois program, and the lower cost per structure through bundling, to expand the number of structures being replaced annually. Increasing funding for bridge replacement will not, by itself, result in improvement in the overall condition of the State's structures due to their advanced age. Through bundling, we plan to get more projects out for bid, thereby increasing your opportunities for design, and all structure-delivery-related work.
Will IDOT support bundling bridges at the county or municipal level?	The department's focus at this time are state structures.

How will Small Business Initiatives s be incorporated in bridge bundling?

Similar to the DBE goals established for other projects, each project will be looked upon unto itself, whether it is 5 bridges or 20 bridges. We are not going to paint with a broad brush, we are going to look at each individual project when establishing DBE goals. The department also wants to be innovative in what we accomplish, we are hoping through this webinar, we will receive input regarding innovative ideas that some of you have expereinced in other states or working for other entities. Also note that the majority of our funds are Federal funds so we have to follow federal requirements. But we also have an opportunity for innovativation through the use state funds only, so the department is considering all ideas because we want to be as inclusive as we can be. And if we decide to move forward with bundling structures, the idea is that we are doing more at a lower cost per structure, which makes more money available to do more projects and also create more opportunities for our industry partners. Your ideas will be helpful to the department in not only evaluating if we are going to bundle structures, but also how we will provide opportunities for DBEs and small businesses. Even if you are a firm that has not done any bridge bundling projects and are not sure how you can do it, please let us know as we are looking at all of your comments and will try to develop a program that addresses your concerns.

How will commingling of Districts work?

The survey is an opportunity for the industry to provide input on crossing district lines. The department thinks there is an opportunity to do that, but we will have to work through coordination issues in order to take full advantage of what bundling can do for the State. If you would not bid on a bundle that crossed district lines, please share that with us.

the PennDOT bridge project you referenced earlier was a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain, is IDOT contemplating this delivery model?

At this time, the department is only able to procure using Design/Bid/Build. If authority is given to use an alternative delivery method, we will evaluate and of course complete stakeholder outreach.

How will Unions work with this when District lines are crossed?

The survey is an opportunity for the industry to provide input on crossing district lines. The department thinks there is an opportunity to do that, but we will have to work through union-related issues in order to take full advantage of what bundling can do for the State. If you would not bid on a bundle that crossed district lines due to Union issues, please share that with us.