

IllinoisInterchange

News, Training and Updates for IDOT's Illinois Technology Transfer Center Followers!

McHenry County Selected as the Illinois 2026 'Build a Better Mousetrap' Competition Winner



The Federal Highway Administration's **Build a Better Mousetrap** national recognition program is an initiative designed to spotlight locally driven innovation in transportation and provide a national platform for sharing practical solutions to everyday challenges faced by local and Tribal transportation professionals. Focused specifically on local roads, the program celebrates creative problem-solving that strengthens the way transportation systems are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained.

[READ MORE!](#)



Flagger Safety: Heads Up During Work-Zone Setup

For flaggers, "heads up" always applies. However, the period when a work zone is being installed may be one of the most hazardous parts of the operation.

[READ MORE!](#)

Leadership Lessons from the Field: Bringing Out the Best in Others

Whether responding to a water main break at 2 a.m., preparing for a snowstorm or setting up a work zone, local public agencies rely on people who can think, adapt and solve problems. Procedures and standards are essential, but so is the ability of employees to make sound decisions when situations don't go exactly as planned.

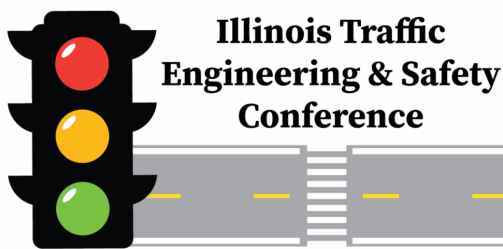
[READ MORE!](#)



From the Archives: A Routine Equipment Task Turns Fatal

A municipal employee is fatally injured while jumpstarting mobile equipment. Read the incident report for crucial lessons learned.

[**READ MORE!**](#)



October 21 and 22, 2026

iHotel & Conference Center
Champaign, IL

www.trafficconf.com

I ILLINOIS



FHWA Launches New Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence

The Federal Highway Administration has introduced the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence, a new national hub designed to help transportation agencies explore and adopt trusted AI tools.

[**READ MORE!**](#)

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APWA Illinois Chapter
APWA Chicago Metro Chapter

OFFERED TWICE A YEAR
in the
SPRING AND FALL
Keller Convention Center, Effingham, Illinois

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SCHEDULES,
AND MORE!

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growing and committed to excellence!

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2026 IACE Fall Conference

Wednesday, September 30
Scholarship Golf Outing,
Indian Bluff, Moline

**Thursday, October 1,
and Friday, October 2,**
Vibrant Arena, Moline

**For conference details,
please call the IACE office,
217-523-1146**

Every Day Counts - EDC 8 is here!

FHWA's Every Day Counts program is rolling out six powerful initiatives, including Advancing Nighttime Work Zone Safety, which LTAP is advocating for.

In fall 2026, transportation leaders from across the country will come together for dynamic peer exchanges to dive into each innovation and discover what's possible to help bring those innovations to life. From idea to impact, EDC-8 is pushing the nation forward.

**2026
IPWMAN
CONFERENCE**
October 20 & 21



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Bloomington, IL

FREE For IPWMAN Members

Learn, Train, and Grow with IPWMAN

- Gain a deeper understanding of IPWMAN operations
- Participate in multiple training sessions tailored to a wide range of professional interests
- Enjoy dedicated time to interact with vendors and industry partners

All members of your public works department are encouraged to attend, making this a valuable learning and networking opportunity for the entire team

IPWMAN has reserved a block of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Rate: \$110 per night, plus taxes and fees

Attendees are responsible for reserving their hotel room

Conference check-in begins at 11:00 am on Tuesday, October 20
The conference ends at 12:45 pm on Wednesday, October 21

Conference Details | Registration | Reserve a Room



Visit Our Website
www.ipwman.org

Call Us
844-479-6269 x2



SAVE THE DATE!
ILLINOIS
CHAPTER
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5, 2026
At the Peoria Civic
Center

REGISTER AT
<https://apwaillc.eventticket-register.com/>

Register Today

119th Annual Educational Conference
November 9, 10, 11, 2026 - Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL



Our conference provides educational and networking opportunities that help township officials become more effective and efficient leaders and members.

Conference registration includes:

- Participation in all educational sessions
- Access to all exhibit hall hours and events
- Monday, opening evening reception
- Tuesday, breakfast and lunch
- Tuesday evening fun social event
- Cash drawing prizes
- Personal contact with exhibiting businesses and organizations

Details & registration: toi.org



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The Technology Transfer (T2) Program is a nationwide effort financed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and individual state departments of transportation. Its purpose is to transfer the latest state-of-the-art technology in the areas of roads and bridges by translating the technology into terms understood by local and state highway or transportation personnel.

The Illinois Interchange is published quarterly by the Illinois Technology Transfer Center at the Illinois Department of Transportation. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois Department of Transportation or the Federal Highway Administration. Any product mentioned in the Illinois Interchange is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a product endorsement.