

IllinoisInterchange

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

ADA Title II Statewide Compliance Assessment and Support Project



IDOT has been working hard to advance their Americans with Disabilities Act Initiative.

Highlights and upcoming events include:

- ADA Coordinator Group
Next meeting is Jan. 22!
- ADA Title II Compliance Assessments
- New ADA Transition Plan Template
- New Title II ADA Training: Quality Transition Planning, How to Use IDOT's New Self-Evaluation & Companion Guide, Feb. '26
- Updates: ADA Toolkit & Resource Catalog

[READ MORE!](#)



Illinois Participants Shine in 2025 Emerging Leaders Academy Projects

Attendees at this year's **American Public Works Association Public Works Expo** were able to connect with colleagues from across the country and explore innovative ideas shaping the future of public works. Among the highlights were the final project submissions from the **2025 APWA Emerging Leaders Academy** - a cohort divided into two groups, each tasked with developing a meaningful resource for the profession. Illinois was well-represented by both project teams. [READ MORE](#)

Local Street/Road/Highway Departments are Part of Illinois OSHA's High-Hazard Inspection Program

Did you know that local street/road/highway departments are part of Illinois OSHA's high-hazard inspection program? The Top 20 standards cited by Illinois OSHA during street/road/highway department inspections in 2022-2023 are in [this PDF](#).

Department leaders are encouraged to review each standard along with the associated recommendation to ensure compliance and improve workplace safety and health. For more information about Illinois OSHA, visit osha.illinois.gov.

Illinois OSHA Fact Sheet

Top 20 standards cited by IL OSHA during street/road/highway department inspections in 2022-23

Walking Working Surfaces

- 1910.22(e)(1) Work areas are not in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition.
Recommendation: Develop and implement a schedule to keep work area clean.
- 1910.30(a)(1) Employees exposed to fall hazards have not received training.
Recommendation: Provide employees that work at height with training prior to work assignment.

Exits and Emergency Planning

- 1910.37(N)(1) Building exits are not marked.
Recommendation: Identify all building exits with exit signs.

Hearing Conservation

- 1910.95(d)(1) Department has not implemented a monitoring program for employee exposure to noise.
Recommendation: When employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels, the employer must implement a hearing conservation program.

Personal Protective Equipment

- 1910.132(e)(2) Department has not performed a personal protective equipment hazard assessment.
Recommendation: Perform and certify a PPE hazard assessment using IL OSHA's sample PPE hazard assessment.
- 1910.132(f)(1) Employees are not trained on the use, limitations and care of issued PPE.
Recommendation: Provide employees with training on issued PPE and ensure they can demonstrate understanding.

112th Illinois Transportation and Highway Engineering Conference to be held in Champaign - March 3-4



Each year, more than 1,000 transportation engineers, officials, technicians, faculty and students gather to discuss issues critical to the safe and economical movement of people and goods across Illinois, the U.S. and beyond.

- Register at [T.H.E. Conference website](#)
- For more information [2025 Conference Program](#)
- Email: the-conf@illinois.edu

IDOT's T2 Center Offers Training on the General Administrative Duties of the Highway Commissioner

As part of its ongoing commitment to support and educate local public agencies, the Illinois Department of Transportation's Technology Transfer (T2) Center hosted a training series in late summer and early fall 2025 titled General Administrative Duties of the Highway Commissioner. This full-day course was designed to provide township highway commissioners and staff with a comprehensive overview of their responsibilities and best practices for effective administration. [READ MORE](#)



Land acquisition appraisal CE classes, IDOT's investment in (y)our future!

Don Martin came to IDOT in 2023 as the Appraisal Unit chief for Land Acquisition with visions of the appraisal education and trainings that could be provided. As a now 26-year instructor of appraisal classes, he provides ongoing training classes to staff, consultants and others with an interest in what appraisers do and why they do it. [READ MORE](#)

Why Work Zone Flagger Training Matters for Local Public Agencies

Local public agencies face a constant challenge: completing essential roadway work while keeping their crews and the traveling public safe. One of the most important and often underestimated components of a safe work zone is a well-trained flagger. [READ MORE](#)



Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network 2025 Year In Review

- April 6-14 Massac County sandbag machine loan
- May 23- June 4 Williamson County debris removal
- August 17-25 Village of Cary debris removal
- August 21 City of Aurora debris removal
- August 25-27 Village of Algonquin debris removal

5 Activations
131 Responders representing 35 Member Agencies



Total Value of 2025 Responses: \$227,480.26*

Responses are at NO COST to the requesting Member Agencies
* (As of 11.11.25. Based on actual responder rates of pay and current FEMA Equipment Rates)



Public Works Ride-Alongs: Bridging the Gap Between Operations and Understanding

While police and fire departments have long offered ride-alongs, Public Works has largely remained behind the scenes despite being first in and last out in their role as first responders. This department is one of the most complex and misunderstood branches of local government.

[READ MORE](#)



Farewell from T2's Tim Peters!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide training and technical support to local agencies and those who support them throughout Illinois.

[READ MORE](#)



Why recognize public works professionals as **FIRST RESPONDERS?**

While police, fire, and EMS are often the three most recognized first responders, public works is also often silently there—providing vital support to emergency response partners, helping protect essential services, and restoring those services following an emergency situation. Consider the following:

- In 2003, President George W. Bush issued Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) officially recognizing public works as first responders.
- In 2010, Mississippi, under House Bill (HB) 664, recognized public works professionals as first responders.
- In 2019, the US Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 (S.Con.Res.15), “Expressing support for the designation of October 28, 2019, as Honoring the Nation’s First Responders Day.” Public works is specifically included.
- In 2022, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu signed into law SB325, formally recognizing public works employees as first responders.
- In 2022, New Hampshire passed HB 536, “An Act relating to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relating to workers’ compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits.”
- Public works is often considered “the silent arm of public safety” – usually without fanfare. Public works professionals are often the first on scene and the last to leave the scenes of disasters—no matter the peril.
- The National Incident Management System (NIMS) lists public works alongside police, fire, and public health in its documentation: National Incident Management System, 3rd Edition (fema.gov).

What can I do?

- Establish a public works awareness committee.
- Arrange for meeting sessions with fellow public works professionals to share your ideas, experiences, and your public works awareness success stories.
- Put together a short presentation/video to share with your elected officials at the local, county, state, and federal levels, highlighting the vital role public works professionals have as first responders.
- Reach out to APWA’s Government Affairs staff and refer to the APWA website for the latest information.
- When discussing public works as first responders, remember to use the APWA theme, “Ready and Resilient.”
- Remove your organizations and those you serve, whether it is clearing debris after a major storm, clearing the roads during winter weather conditions, setting up protective barriers, or any other critical essential function, that **public works is always there** to ensure government operations return to normal as quickly as possible. “Public works is the silent arm of public safety!”

Please don't hesitate to reach out to APWA Government Affairs Manager, Mary Williams by phone (202) 218-6732 or email mwilliams@apwa.org or APWA's Marketing Department by phone at (816) 595-5257 or email jhillman@apwa.org, should you have any questions or need assistance raising awareness of public works as first responders.



For more information, visit the [Illinois Municipal League Website](#).



EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

2026 Regional Meetings and Spring Seminar Dates

[SEE SCHEDULE](#)



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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.

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