



For Immediate Release:
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Illinois Businesses Invited to Attend Community Meetings

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Authority) are hosting community meetings to discuss the current IDOT and Tollway DBE Disparity Study. The Study will analyze the use of minority, woman-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprise firms on contracts administered by IDOT and the Tollway.

Three (3) community meetings are being held to inform the local business community about the DBE Disparity Study. The community meeting schedule is as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
August 27, 2009	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	<i>Hanley Building Auditorium</i> 2300 South Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62764
August 28, 2009	3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	<i>City of East St. Louis Municipal Building</i> 301 River Park Drive East St. Louis, IL 62201
August 31, 2009	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	<i>Malcolm X College Cultural Center</i> 1900 West Van Buran Chicago, IL 60612

The Study is being conducted by Mason Tillman Associates, a minority, woman-owned consulting firm based in Oakland, California, with 27 years of disparity study experience. The firm has conducted 106 disparity studies since 1990 for various states, counties, cities, and

special districts, and is a nationally recognized authority on disparity studies and public policy research. The IDOT/Tollway Disparity Study Committee is assisting the agencies by serving in an advisory capacity to IDOT and the Tollway regarding the Study.

An overview of the Disparity Study process will be presented by the Study consultant with public comment immediately following. In addition, IDOT and the Tollway's managers will discuss upcoming contracting opportunities.

All businesses are encouraged to attend.