From: Harris, Mark
To: Ribley, Warren; Norington-Reaves, Karin
Subject: FW: HACIA Release
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2010 3:31:35 PM
Attachments: 10-29-10 HACIA grant (2).doc

Warren and Karin –
FYI – IDOT is putting out this release tomorrow.

From: Kauffman, Josh
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Harris, Mark; Klinzman, Grant; Tridgell, Guy
Cc: Cross, Ashley; Kettlewell, Bob; Santiago, Milly
Subject: RE: HACIA Release

Sure. Please see attachment (and below).

IDOT Announces $1.5 Million to Support Illinois' Minority and Women Contractors

Funding Through Governor Quinn's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative; Will Increase Opportunities for Small Businesses and Create Jobs

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) today announced a two-year, $1.5 million grant to the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA) to help small contractors interested in doing business with the state. The grant is part of the $50 million Neighborhood Recovery Initiative launched by Governor Pat Quinn earlier this month to revitalize and strengthen urban communities.

"This grant will help ensure that more small contractors in Illinois have the tools and expertise they need to create jobs by taking part in the *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital program," said Governor Quinn. "To ensure that nobody is left out, we must continue to invest in small businesses to enhance their capacity to competitively bid on public sector contracts."

The grant funding represents collaboration between IDOT and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to support training and technical expertise for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and Women & Minority Business Enterprises (WBE/MBE), and those who seek to become certified under these programs.

Classes will be held at the campuses of St. Augustine College on Chicago's West and North sides. Training will be provided in the areas of small business management, public sector proposal creation and bidding, construction best practices, workplace safety, technology and green construction techniques.

Through Governor Quinn's six-year, $31 billion *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital plan, IDOT is leading the largest construction program in state history. The grant announced with HACIA today will better equip small contractors to participate in the historic program.

"We are proud to work together with HACIA to help carry out *Illinois Jobs Now!*" IDOT Secretary Gary Hannig said. "Together we will rebuild our infrastructure, improve safety, create jobs and boost the state's economy."

The Neighborhood Recovery Initiative, an outgrowth of Governor Quinn's Anti-Violence Commission, is focused on rebuilding vulnerable neighborhoods by offering more job and education opportunities. Earlier this summer, Governor Quinn signed legislation to increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses on state capital projects, requiring anyone who receives more than $250,000 in state grants or loans for capital construction to comply with Illinois' equal employment and business enterprise program practices.

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