

LETTING YOU KNOW

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is interested in maintaining close communications with industry. This newsletter highlights subjects that we believe will be of interest to you.

No. 189

November 07, 2025 Letting

Removal of DBE Special Provision

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) updating federal regulatory requirements related to DBE certification that requires the certification of all DBE firms to be reevaluated for social and economic disadvantage based on personal narrative descriptions of their experiences. The language of the IFR, and accompanying USDOT guidance dated September 30, 2025, indicates that the IFR went into effect immediately upon its October 3, 2025, publication. IDOT is working closely with our Illinois Unified Certification Program (ILUCP) partners (City of Chicago, CTA, Metra and Pace) to reevaluate all ILUCP certified DBE firms in accordance with the requirements of the October 3, 2025, Interim Final Rule and its changes to 49 CFR Part 26.

November 2025 letting:

In accordance with the IFR and USDOT guidance, the DBE Special Provision has been removed from all construction contracts for the November 7, 2025 letting. The DBE goal information is being updated in the system but it may take some time for those updates to be reflected in certain areas of the website and ebids system.

IDOT has withdrawn non-critical contracts that included DBE goals from the November 7, 2025, letting. IDOT's intent is to place those contracts on future lettings, allowing time for the reevaluation process to proceed. Only critical projects that originally included DBE goals will remain on the November letting. IDOT will reduce to 0% the DBE goals for projects on the November letting as required by the Interim Final Rule.

There are several projects scheduled for the November letting that originally did not include DBE goals based on ordinary policies and market evaluation. These projects will proceed on the letting as planned.

Future Advertisements:

IDOT will not be including DBE goals on newly advertised projects and contracts until the DBE reevaluation process is completed. Once that reevaluation process is completed, IDOT intends to let projects with DBE goals where applicable.

Important Changes to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act

Public Act 104-0160 was signed into law on August 14, 2025 and amends the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act by changing the definition of "public works" to include all federal construction projects administered or controlled by a public body if the prevailing rate of wages published by the Illinois Department of Labor is equal to or greater than the prevailing wage determination by the United States Secretary of Labor for the same locality for the same type of construction used to classify the federal construction project. <https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/PublicActs/View/104-0160>

**USDOT Bidder List
for Prime
Contractors**

The Department is collecting data from Prequalified Prime Contractors as required by USDOT's Bidder List information (**49 CFR Part 26.11**). This information **is required to be submitted** for Prequalified Prime Contractors with a 4-digit prequalification number who bid on at least one contract from 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025, or who anticipate bidding on future IDOT contracts. Please submit your response by close of business on October 15, 2025: <https://forms.office.com/g/9juEzygEuw> Questions may be directed to the Bureau of Small Business Enterprises at (217) 782-5490.

**Affidavit for Illinois
Business
Certification**

Please upload the BDE 422 signed affidavit when bidding on projects with the Certification N requirement. The form can be found here: <https://idot.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idot/documents/idot-forms/bde/bde-422.pdf>

**IDOT Division of
Aeronautics
Federal-Aid
Contracts – New
Requirement for
Federal Aviation
Administration
(FAA) Buy American
Preference**

New FAA Buy American Preference provisions apply to all IDOT Division of Aeronautics federal-aid contracts. Failure to submit a “Certification of Compliance with FAA Buy American Preference – Construction Projects” form in accordance with the bidding procedures set forth in the proposal document (Appendix A4 BUY AMERICAN PREFERENCE) will result in the bid being declared non-responsive. The following is from the proposal document (Appendix A4 BUY AMERICAN PREFERENCE).

The bidder shall submit the completed and signed “Certification of Compliance with FAA Buy American Preference – Construction Projects” form with the bid. The required form must be uploaded in the “Miscellaneous Documents” area as a single .pdf file in the “Integrated Contractor Exchange (iCX)” application within the Department’s “EBids System”.

The Department will not accept a “Certification of Compliance with FAA Buy American Preference – Construction Projects” form if it does not meet the bidding procedures set forth herein and the bid will be declared non-responsive. In the event the bid is declared non-responsive, the Department may elect to cause the forfeiture of the penal sum of the bidder’s proposal guaranty and may deny authorization to bid the project if re-advertised for bids.

**Hard Copies of
Contractor’s
Executed Contracts**

IDOT is no longer mailing out hard copies of the complete executed contracts. Contractors now receive executed contracts and bonds via email, sent to the address designated in the Contractor’s Vendor Portal. Please be sure that your Vendor Portal is updated with the correct email address to receive these documents.

**New Dates for
March 2026 Letting**

The March 2026 Letting date has been moved to February 27, 2026. The bulletin will be posted to the IDOT Website on January 23, 2026.

STAY INFORMED!

Keep in touch with your representative on the IDOT/Industry Policy Committee and the IDOT/Industry Joint Co-op Committee.



Illinois Department of Transportation