



CIVIL TALK

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A NEWSLETTER FROM HENEGHAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Celebrating Our 24th Year in Business

June 2010



WHERE'S THE MONEY?



Budget—cut \$1 million. Early retirement. State withholds \$500,000. Projects to do—no money. When will we get our money? Where will the money come from? Yes, these are challenging times—starting from the top and trickling down to the lowest level of government imaginable. The good news is there are still grants and low interest options as government entities look for ways to fund badly needed projects. And just in time to save the day, the Illinois Department of Transportation has announced the revival of two grant programs.



First, for public schools, who are suffering financially from the east to the west coast, IDOT recently received approximately \$7.5 million in Safe Routes To School (SRTS) funding for 2010 for qualifying schools in Illinois. SRTS

supports projects and programs to enable and encourage bicycling and walking to and from schools for kindergarten through 8th grade.

To participate, a new or updated School Travel Plan for the community where you are located must be submitted and approved. The School Travel Plan is a written document outlining a school community's intentions for making travel to and from school more safe and sustainable. This is accomplished by reducing car rides and increasing walking and bicycling in a safe environment. This is the first step in a successful SRTS program and a prerequisite for funding. The Illinois School Travel Plan guide and worksheet can be found at the Illinois SRTS website which will assist you as you move through this first step. This school travel plan can be submitted starting May 31 with November 12 being the last day to submit the plan. On October 1, the call for projects opens. Examples of projects include: 1) Construct, replace, or repair sidewalks; 2) Install, enhance, or repair crosswalks; 3) Make existing sidewalks accessible to disabled students; 4) Create off-road walking or bicycle paths. A travel plan is necessary to access the project application and the application must be submitted by December 15. The projects selected to receive this round of funding will not be announced until mid to late 2011. IDOT's website provides detailed information about the SRTS program including tips for success at <http://www.dot.il.gov/saferoutes/saferouteshome.aspx>.

In addition to the SRTS, IDOT has also announced the plan to reopen the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). ITEP provides funding for com-

munity based projects that expand travel choices and enhances the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure.

Up to 80% of project costs may be reimbursable through ITEP, with the remaining 20% the responsibility of the entity originally submitting the project.

To be eligible for ITEP, the project must relate to surface transportation and meet one of the following 12 eligible categories: 1) Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; 2) Scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome center facilities; 3) Landscaping and other scenic beautification; 4) Historic preservation; 5) Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals); 6) Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; 7) Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites; 8) Preservation of abandoned railway corridors for the conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle trails; 9) Control/removal of outdoor advertising; 10) Establishment of transportation museums; 11) Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; 12) Archeological planning.

ITEP has been used to create, enhance, or connect bike and/or walking trails in Godfrey, Belleville, Edwardsville, Mount Vernon, Chester, and other locations. The funding was used for streetscape projects in Effingham, Millstadt, Wood River, Collinsville, and others. ITEP was approved for more unique projects like native plantings in O'Fallon, Illinois Historic Route 66 Discovery Center in Springfield, and preservation of a lighthouse in Evanston. With the assistance of HA, the City of Bunker Hill received ITEP funding for street lighting.

As you can see by the partial list above, there are many different kinds of transportation projects that qualify for funding through ITEP.

With this round of ITEP, applications will be submitted on-line. Currently, IDOT is planning to accept applications on-line starting the end of May or the first of June, 2010. Applications will be due in August with approved projects being announced in October. If you need help with increasing the chances of having your grant submittal approved, contact Curt Westrich, cawestrich@heneghanassoc.com or Doug Kinzinger, dlkinzinger@heneghanassoc.com

Now That's A Heavy Haul!



The Prairie State Generating Company in Lively Grove has been busy for the past three years preparing for opening day in 2012. Several “heavy hauls” have been necessary to properly equip the power plant. The latest heavy haul (above) involved transporting two pieces of equipment with a combined weight of 865 tons across the Atlantic Ocean, up the Mississippi and Kaskaskia Rivers where they were unloaded just south of New Athens. The equipment was then moved 14 miles by two remote controlled flatbeds, each outfitted with 36 tires. Heneghan and Associates has performed surveying in support of the new plant and was asked by the Village of Lenzburg to monitor the move as the equipment crawled through the Village at about one mile per hour over roads and bridges to its final resting place.

Meet & Greet Emily Fortschneider



This month we introduce you to Emily Fortschneider. Emily joined the firm at the Jerseyville office in August 2007 as a Technician. Emily plays an important role as she is one of the employees who stays current on the many grant and low interest loan programs offered by local, state, and federal agencies.

She is a graduate of Illinois College in Jacksonville where she received a degree in biology and environmental sciences. In addition to her grant writing skills, Emily is equipped to evaluate the stability and diversification of ecosystems and can tell you all about the environmental requirements for construction in the private and public sectors. As Emily works toward becoming accredited in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), she can also tell you about the laws regulating the “building green” design concept. When not at work, Emily can be found at home outside either working in her yard or helping on the family farm, and spending time with her family and friends.

CIVIL TALK is published by **Heneghan & Associates P.C.** Questions or comments? Contact Susan Isringhausen (618-498-6418) or Cheryl Moody (618-281-8133) or e-mail skisringhausen@heneghanassoc.com or camoody@heneghanassoc.com

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