



NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BOARD CHAIRMAN BOB SCHILLERSTROM TO RECEIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM U.S. MINORITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
Schillerstrom recognized for his role in advancing new, innovative and bold initiatives for diverse firms

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Illinois Tollway Board of Directors Chairman Bob Schillerstrom will be presented the Public Administrator of the Year Award by the U.S. Minority Contractors Association (USMCA) in recognition of his leadership in advancing new, innovative and bold diversity, procurement and job readiness initiatives at the Illinois Tollway for disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms.

The Public Administrator of the Year Award is presented to elected and appointed public officials who advance the cause and mission of the USMCA in procurement, economic advancement and diversity in the workplace. The award will be presented at a ceremony this evening by Rev. Larry Bullock, USMCA founder and chairman, and the USMCA Board of Directors at the association's annual awards reception in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, on November 10.

"It's an honor to be recognized for our efforts to break down barriers to participation for minorities, women and veterans," said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. "It helps to have great partners like the USMCA and we look forward to continue working with them and others to improve and expand upon our already successful diversity programs."

"Chairman Schillerstrom truly deserves to be recognized as Public Administrator of the Year by the USMCA," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "He has been a strong advocate for creating and expanding contract opportunities for small, diverse and veteran businesses and ensuring that the workforce on Illinois Tollway projects reflects the diversity of the communities we serve."

As of September 30, 2016, an estimated 980 unique firms have worked on Tollway construction projects since the 15-year, \$12 billion *Move Illinois* capital program began – including nearly 325 firms identified as disadvantaged, minority-, women- or veteran-owned firms. Of those 980 unique firms, an estimated 540 firms are new to the Tollway. And, of those 540 firms, 140 firms are minority, women-or veteran-owned firms.

In July, the Illinois Tollway's Board of Directors reaffirmed the agency's commitment to diversity by adopting recommendations from the Tollway's Diversity Report that will reduce barriers for disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms, as well as small and veteran-owned businesses, competing for Tollway contracts. The report contains 27 recommendations describing steps the Tollway is taking, plans to take in the future or will study further to increase participation by diverse businesses in all aspects of its operations.

"We are delighted to present our friend and supporter, Chairman Schillerstrom, the USMCA Public Administrator of the Year Award at this year's Millennium Builders Awards Banquet," said Rev. Bullock. "His life's work and dedication to public service and community outreach more than justifies his receipt of the award. His involvement with the USMCA, its Board members and general membership is illustrative of a genuine partnership as we all seek to build capacity via Illinois Tollway projects."

About USMCA

The U.S. Minority Contractors Association is a nonprofit professional trade organization that provides professional, educational, technical and consulting services to both its membership and through the community at large. It serves as the advocacy agency for minority contractors and subcontractors in the suburban community while endeavoring to provide the best consulting services possible in the construction, environmental, building maintenance, architectural engineering design, hospitality training and general service industries.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 292 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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