



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY BLACK
CHAMBER of COMMERCE, INC.**

Leave No Business Behind

Dedicated to Economic Independence

Press release: for immediate release contact phone: Lee: 618.616.6282

Zoom Press Conf regarding IDOT for : July 10 2020 @10am

We are here today to bring attention to the historic systemic racial discrimination that exist throughout the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) statewide, particularly here in District 8 in Southern Illinois. The total 2020 budget for Highway improvements for the Illinois Department of Transportation statewide is \$23.4 billion. The department has allocated \$2.3 billion for District 8's five-year plan for highway improvements, and we want to make sure that African Americans get a fair chance to reap the benefits of the tax dollars that they have paid into the Federal Highway Fund, with reference to internal, external employment, and subcontracting opportunities.

There are nine IDOT Districts from Chicago in the north to Carbondale in the south. District 8, where we are now, is the second largest District in the state covering 12 counties, second only to Chicago.

As a community, we have been documenting, reporting, and complaining about the systemic racism here for many years. There have been Republican and Democratic administrations in office during this time and yet, nothing has changed

According to IDOT'S own numerous disparity studies over the past years, with the 2018 disparity study being the latest, there is still systemic racism within the Illinois Department of Transportation statewide. IDOT promised and submitted a plethora of corrective actions that are mandated by the Federal Highway Administration for continued funding of IDOT's Highway Improvement Program. The disparities are real, however, historically, these corrective actions are no more than window dressing. History tell us that most, if not all, of these promised corrective measures are never acted upon by IDOT, or the responsible parties of the Federal Highway Administration, who has over-site regarding compliance. We are going to engage the U. S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Justice Department, Illinois Department of Human Rights, the Governor's Office, as well as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to achieve resolutions to the following:

- 1) Ensure the Illinois General Assembly debate and pass Senate Bill 263. (This bill makes it a felony for an IDOT administrator to intentionally change scores assigned to Prime contractors for EEO minority/female workforce compliance on IDOT projects.
- 2) Separation of minorities' DBE goals from white women goals.
- 3) Have an independent EEO officer who reports to the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity and not to the Project Implementation Engineer.
- 4) Require at least one African American sat on every interview panel.
- 5) Investigate the racist environment that African American maintainers work under.
- 6) Investigate why no African American section head has ever been selected for a 75-day consulting opportunity after retirement.
- 7) Investigate the Tiffany Randle case.
- 8) Investigate the Jamie Franklin case
- 9) Disparity hiring and disciplinary action regarding African American employees.
- 10) Look into the low number of African American students who are getting into the unions after graduating from the Highway Construction Career Training Program (HCCTP) after more than 600 have graduated.
- 11) African American maintainers ongoing disparage treatment compared to their white counterpart
- 12) Form a citizen's review council to meet at lease every quarter to review:
 - A) Hiring practices and promotions
 - B) Disciplinary action
 - C) Interview panels

