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IDOT, MoDOT hold business networking forums

ST. LOUIS – The Illinois and Missouri Departments of Transportation are holding two business networking forums in early August to help businesses connect before the Mississippi River Bridge goes out for bid in September.

The two forums are 4 to 7 p.m. August 5 at Friends: A Meeting Place, 716 N. Compton Avenue in St. Louis and 9 a.m. to noon August 6 at the Casino Queen Hotel, 200 Front Street in East St. Louis. The main purpose for the forum is to give Illinois and Missouri certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise owners an opportunity to meet and network with possible primary contractors for the river bridge and the approaches.

“We want to encourage any certified DBE company, or any company who is considering becoming certified, to attend one of these meetings,” said Greg Horn, P.E., Mississippi River Bridge project director. “This will be an excellent opportunity for Missouri and Illinois DBEs to talk one-on-one with the companies interested in building the bridge and approaches, and give those DBEs the opportunity to express their unique capabilities.”

Currently, there are four companies prequalified to bid on the main span of the river bridge and eight companies who have expressed interest in bidding on the approaches. The Mississippi River Bridge team will offer other companies with the experience and capability of constructing a major river bridge a final opportunity to pre-qualify in August. The main span of the river bridge is scheduled to go out for bids in September. The Missouri and Illinois approaches for the bridge are scheduled to go out for bids in October and November, respectively. The Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission is tentatively scheduled to award the projects six weeks after bidding starts.

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