FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 17, 2014

CONTACT:

Jae Miller: (312) 814-4693

I-55 & Weber Road is Moving Forward

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in partnership with the Will County Highway Department is pleased to announce that following a successful public hearing for the I-55 and Weber Road study, IDOT has awarded contracts for the next phase of the project which entails preparation of the contract plans.

The design consultants selected are Knight E/A, Inc. and Thomas Engineering Group. Continuing the commitment of advancing small and minority businesses, IDOT advertised a disadvantage business enterprise participation goal of 20% for each of the contracts. The combined estimated cost of these contracts is $10,000,000. The estimated construction cost for the I-55 and Weber Road improvement is $97,000,000 which will result in an anticipated creation or retention of over 1,200 construction jobs.

This improvement includes the capacity additions along Weber Road and the reconfiguration of the interchange at I-55 to a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI). These improvements are intended to improve operations, capacity and safety along this highly utilized facility that services over 150,000 vehicles per day. This innovative interchange reduces congestion by providing free-flow turning movements onto the freeway (both left and right-turns). It improves safety by eliminating left-turn movement conflicts. Capacity could be increased by as much as 20% and delay decreased by as much as 60%.

The interchange provides access to a fast growing area that doubled in population over the past 20 years. This project helps support Bolingbrook and Romeoville areas employment trends in freight transportation-dependent sectors accounting for approximately 24 - 28% of all jobs in each community. Warehouses and distribution centers within the Village of Bolingbrook alone account for nearly 30.5 million square feet of industrial buildings.

For more information about the project, visit: http://www.dot.il.gov/WeberRoad/index.html.