

Governor Bruce Rauner Keynotes IRTBA Conference

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(OAK BROOK)--The Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) is pleased and honored that Governor Bruce Rauner gave the keynote presentation at today's Planning & Design Conference.

The non-partisan, annual Planning & Design Conference is the largest planning and design event for IRTBA members, attracting over 200 attendees who came together for a half-day of professional development focused on ensuring Illinois remains at the cutting edge of transportation infrastructure concepts.

Governor Rauner addressed this year's conference theme, "Project Delivery Innovations," along with a panel of presenters who explored a variety of project delivery methods and included profiles of national, state, and local projects that showcased project delivery alternatives and private investment opportunities.

"There's going to be a lot of transportation related technology - autonomous vehicles and drones. Given where we are in the country, the ability to do innovative partnerships with tech companies, and doing these transportation related innovations, bring them here [...] I think there's a big opportunity," Governor Rauner said in his speech.

Rauner concluded his presentation to the transportation industry stating, "The next few months are going to be critical. I really think we can get a capital bill done without having to drag 18 months. We've got the road fund money. We've stopped the diversions that have been going on throughout the state. Let's use the money to get it into infrastructure and get these projects moving."

"Our members were excited to hear from Governor Rauner about his vision for moving the Illinois transportation improvement agenda forward," said Mike Sturino, president & CEO of IRTBA. "We are truly grateful that he was able to serve as our keynote presenter at this year's Planning & Design Conference."

In addition to Governor Rauner, other distinguished guests included House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, IDOT Secretary Randy Blankenhorn, Illinois Tollway Chairman Bob Schillerstrom, and Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov.

The conference also featured a panelist of presenters, including Paul Kovacs, chief engineer at the Illinois Tollway, Chris Bushell, chief infrastructure officer at Chicago Transit Authority, Steve Travia, engineer of project implementation at the Illinois Department of Transportation, John E. Grueling, president & CEO of the Will County Center for Economic development, as well as two member experts from industry transportation firms.

In years prior, other notable keynote presenters at the Planning & Design Conference have included former USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood, former Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez, IDOT Secretary Randy Blankenhorn, Illinois Tollway Chairman Bob Schillerstrom, Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov, Congressman Dan Lipinski, and CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld, among others.

To learn more about the IRTBA Planning & Design Conference or IRTBA membership, explore our website at www.irtba.org, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/IRTBA or like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IRTBA/. For questions about the conference or media inquiries, please contact IRTBA President & CEO Michael Sturino at irtba@irtba.org or (630) 773-1220.