

## IRTBA 2018 Year in Review

*Special Publication*

December 21, 2018



On behalf of the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association Board of Directors and staff, please accept my best wishes to you and your family for a joyous holiday season. I am also writing to let you know that by now you should have received your 2019 IRTBA membership renewal.

Things can get hectic this time of year, but one thing is solid and certain--and that's the value you receive as a member of the premier transportation construction association. These collective resources are available only through membership in the IRTBA.

For example, you benefit from IRTBA efforts in:

- [Advocacy](#) - IRTBA views are highly valued and respected in Springfield and DC -- we value your input and ensure that key decision-makers hear your voice.
- [Business Improvement](#) - Unrivaled networking and educational opportunities through world-class events are available exclusively to members like you.
- [Communication](#) - Timely insight into transportation issues through the Friday Facts, webinars, and expert briefings -- all available only if you're a member.
- [Diversity](#) - Promoting opportunity is a hallmark of a healthy industry -- and you as a member are a part of that through the IRTBA's thoughtful positions and programs.
- [Environment](#) - We all do what we can to protect the planet -- as a member you have access to sensible and sustainable best practices in design and construction.

Over the course of the last year, the IRTBA has worked toward goals set forth by our members. This included testifying before the Illinois House Transportation: Regulation, Roads & Bridges Committee regarding President Donald Trump's \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan and how it relates to the transportation construction industry's priorities, noting the need to develop a permanent solution to revenue shortfalls, the funding structure of Trump's proposed plan, and the ability to deliver the plan. IRTBA also testified in early May before the Illinois House Transportation Committee to address the obvious funding issues, decline in purchasing power, and potential solutions to help maintain and expand Illinois' transportation network, and also elaborated and informed the committee about several potential transportation funding solutions. Among IRTBA's other advocacy accomplishments, IRTBA leaders met with **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel** in March to discuss transportation infrastructure and a capital bill. The Mayor in December came out in favor of a capital bill with funding from an increased gas tax and a new fee on electric vehicles. IRTBA also represented the transportation design and construction industry's interests in Springfield in November, working on a coalition with labor and business representatives to secure needed additional revenues for an Illinois Capital Bill. Throughout

the year, IRTBA has issued numerous calls to action to alert members of harmful and helpful pieces of legislation in Springfield, so members could better advocate to their elected officials. Members also engaged in candid conversations with **all legislative leaders in Springfield**, in addition to leadership at IDOT's Central Bureau, and 18 senators and 18 representatives of Congress during a Springfield lobby day to discuss transportation funding. Additional notable meetings occurred with **USDOT Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao** and **USDOT Acting Administrator Brandye Hendrickson**. IRTBA advocated for 3P Highway lighting resulting in IDOT RFI and promoted agency coordination on 3D Modeling. Our advocacy achievements peaked for all of our members when IRTBA welcomed **Governor-Elect J.B. Pritzker** to our 81st Annual Meeting & Holiday Party in December -- attended by 1,500 IRTBA members -- where the Governor-Elect gave a speech about the importance of growing transportation infrastructure, innovation, growing the Illinois economy and construction jobs, and funding.

IRTBA members saw more business improvement opportunities this past year through IRTBA's *New Member Ambassador Program* and the most well-attended member orientation to date. IRTBA provided members with six, FREE virtual learning opportunities via [Road Builder University](#) and two days of in-person training at our safety seminars. The association coordinated a meeting with Foxconn, Wisconsin DOT, IDOT, Tollway, Lake County DOT, and City of Chicago to address industry capacity issues. IRTBA presented a drone demonstration to members, which included various applications for contractors to utilize drones in the field. IRTBA Board Member Charlie Gallagher represented the association and industry on a new coalition that will seek funding to accelerate road work along a 16-mile stretch of I-80. In addition to providing labor negotiations updates, collective bargaining information, and weekly wage package allocations to members, IRTBA advised members about a bad collective bargaining agreement that would have bound members to a "bad for business" contract through 2020.

IRTBA attended a national press event to bring awareness to work zone safety, with special guest speakers **Governor Bruce Rauner** and **IDOT Secretary Randy Blankenhorn**, along with other agency partners. IRTBA provided an analysis of IDOT's *FY 2019-2024 Multi-Year Plan (MYP)*, including a breakdown of funds and what they'll be allocated toward, as well as how the funds compare to the previous MYP. Staff also converted all publications, marketing emails, etc. over to a mobile-friendly format and significantly expanded the association's social media reach and engagement. IRTBA celebrated our 80th Anniversary in 2018 with a pre-show presentation at the May General Membership Meeting, which included over 120 pieces of trivia, photos, and fun facts from IRTBA's past. Photos were also shared on social media throughout the year. IRTBA provided election round-ups on the gubernatorial election, the race for Attorney General, and hotly-contested Senate and Congressional races. The association also profiled several candidates in tight election races in the *Friday Facts* eNewsletter to better inform members on Election Day. IRTBA also communicated countless public agency public hearings, bid opportunities, specification and special provision reviews, new IRS deductions, renewal deadlines for necessary permits, procurement workshops, calls to action on important pieces of legislation, and agency and public advocacy campaigns to members via the *Friday Facts* and *IRTBA Insider* electronic publications.

IRTBA cooperated with the Illinois Tollway in designing and launching the *Partnering for Growth* mentor protégé program for construction. We also advertised dozens of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise events, provided input on the Tollway's *Community Hiring Initiative* and *Earned Credit Program*, and informed members of the Illinois Tollway's pilot test of their new Diversity Management Software System, which included training on tracking contract and EEO/workforce compliance to meet Diversity goals, payments to prime and subcontractors/consultants, and workforce performance on construction

contracts. IRTBA encouraged business owners to participate in the interview process for the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Disparity Study for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs to ensure that DBEs and minority- and women-owned businesses (D/M/WBEs) have equal access to the agency's contracting opportunities and that current programs remain legally defensible and administratively successful. We promoted a number of Tollway Small Business Set-Aside projects via the *Friday Facts* and also publicized training sessions for all construction, professional services, and goods and services firms to prepare for implementation of the Tollway's new diversity compliance software, *B2GNow*. IRTBA endorsed member participation and nomination for ARTBA's *Women Leaders in Transportation Design and Construction Awards*.

IRTBA assisted in crafting a new special provision for in-stream cofferdam work for IDOT District 1 and also contributed in the crafting of the new articulated concrete block mat specification revision for the Tollway. The association kept members informed about the mid-year enforcement of the modifications in the renewal of the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Site Activities. We also supplied feedback and comments on issues proposed by the Illinois Urban Manual, OMP, and IDOT's Storm Water Committee. IRTBA educated members with a summary of the changes made to the ILR10 Stormwater Construction Permit this year. The Sustainability Council put the spotlight on members for their green innovations, best management practices, successes, and good deeds through a social media campaign. The association reported in the *Friday Facts* eNewsletter about three Sustainability Council member firms and their Sustainable Success Stories that were innovative, and featured examples of how companies implemented changes, what methods were improved upon to achieve a more sustainable output, internal policies created by leadership and staff to reduce waste, recycle and improve sustainability and the surrounding environment, and the methods of measuring their sustainable successes. Throughout the year, IRTBA provided a forum through the [Sustainability Council](#) for Illinois agencies to gain industry input to enhance sustainable and sensible infrastructure initiatives.

These celebrated successes are only a few snapshots of everything IRTBA accomplished this past year. A complete listing of all the IRTBA's [2018 Year in Review](#) is available linked here and on our website, at [www.irtba.org](http://www.irtba.org).

The IRTBA is only as strong as its members. We look forward continuing to work on your behalf in 2019 and in the years to come.

Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Sturino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Michael J. Sturino**  
President & CEO