

Viridian Enterprises Inc.

Ernie Estela, Owner and President

MOVE
ILLINOIS

The Illinois Tollway
DRIVING
THE FUTURE

When Ernie Estela was working his way through college as a construction laborer, he never imagined that he'd one day have his own fast-growing construction business.

After earning a degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Illinois, serving four years in the U.S. Navy and pursuing a career in the medical services field for the Chicago Public Schools, Ernie returned to his construction roots in 2009 with the launch of Viridian Enterprises.

Already, the Chicago-based excavation firm is poised to quadruple its annual revenues from work on the Illinois Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program. After generating revenues of about \$5 million a year for the past several years, Viridian's work on *Move*

Illinois projects in 2013 propelled the company to double its revenues to more than \$10 million. Viridian is expected to double revenues again in 2014 because of its work on *Move Illinois*.

Ernie attributes the rapid growth to the firm's work on the \$2.5 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project. Viridian, certified as a disadvantaged and minority business enterprise, serves as a subcontractor on various projects throughout the I-90 corridor.

Working on median drainage, grading and advance work, as well as bridge replacement on the western segment of I-90 between Rockford and Elgin,

Viridian has doubled its work crews and plans to hire 10 more full-time seasonal employees for this year's work.

"The Illinois Tollway has been great to do business with. Overall, our experience with *Move Illinois* has far exceeded our expectations.



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Ernie Estela oversees Viridian's progress on median drainage work on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) at Anthony Road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOLLWAY'S *MOVE ILLINOIS* PROGRAM,
VISIT WWW.ILLINOISTOLLWAY.COM.