

A photograph of two construction workers on a job site. The worker in the foreground is wearing a grey hard hat with an orange chin strap, an orange t-shirt, and a high-visibility yellow safety vest. He is using a red power tool on a concrete slab. The worker in the background is wearing a red hard hat, a grey t-shirt, and a high-visibility yellow safety vest. The site includes orange and white traffic barrels, a red pickup truck, and a wooden formwork structure. The background shows trees and a utility pole.

# WEBINAR SERIES #30

Partnering for Growth Professional Services Panel Discussion

Presented by: Illinois Tollway Diversity Department

April 26, 2021



Illinois Tollway  
**DIVERSITY**

*Driving Economic Opportunities*

# BUILDING FOR SUCCESS

# WEBINAR SERIES

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## Housekeeping

**All attendees will be muted**

**Please submit questions via the “chat box” function**

- Please provide name & company along with question

**Today’s presentation will be recorded and posted online at later date**

**Please fill out survey following the presentation**

# WEBINAR SERIES

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## TODAY'S TOPIC:

*Partnering for Growth Professional Services Panel Discussion*



Illinois Tollway  
**DIVERSITY**

*Driving Economic Opportunities*

**BUILDING FOR SUCCESS**



# Illinois Tollway **DIVERSITY**

*Driving Economic Opportunities*

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*Partnering for Growth Professional Services Panel Discussion*

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# PARTNERING FOR GROWTH PROGRAM

## Overview

- ✓ Encourages contractors and consultants to assist small, diverse and veteran-owned businesses in remaining self-sufficient, competitive and profitable
- ✓ Relationships are contract-based
- ✓ Protégé works on agreed-upon scope designed to help expand the protégé's technical capabilities and develop skills needed to work with the Tollway



**PARTNERING for GROWTH**

POWERED BY THE ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

*Taking your Business to the Next Level*



Illinois Tollway  
**DIVERSITY**

*Driving Economic Opportunities*

# RELATIONSHIPS

## Mentors



Chester F. Kochan, P.E.  
Vice President/Senior Project Manager



EXPERIENCE | Transportation

Martin A. Ross, P.E.  
Senior Vice President

## Protégés



Joseph Kozial  
President



Yvonne Owusu-Safo, P.E., M.B.A.  
President



Rubinos &  
Mesia  
Engineers, Inc.

Mohsen Farahany, P.E., S.E.  
Senior Vice President



Carlos V. Huddleston, P.E.  
Managing Principal, CEO

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



Can you share with us how this relationship developed?

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**What were your expectations going into this relationship?**

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**How have you benefitted from this relationship?**

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



Can you share with us what has been the most rewarding aspect of this project ?

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**How well did this relationship prepare you in obtaining future contracts?**

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**What prequals (if any) are advantageous for protégés to obtain?**

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**If you could give advice to a potential mentor or protégé, what would it be?**

# DISCUSSION – BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP



**Can you share with us what diversity and inclusion means to you?**

# DIVERSITY AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

## Programs

- Business assistance
- Mentoring and training
- Construction industry training and hiring opportunities

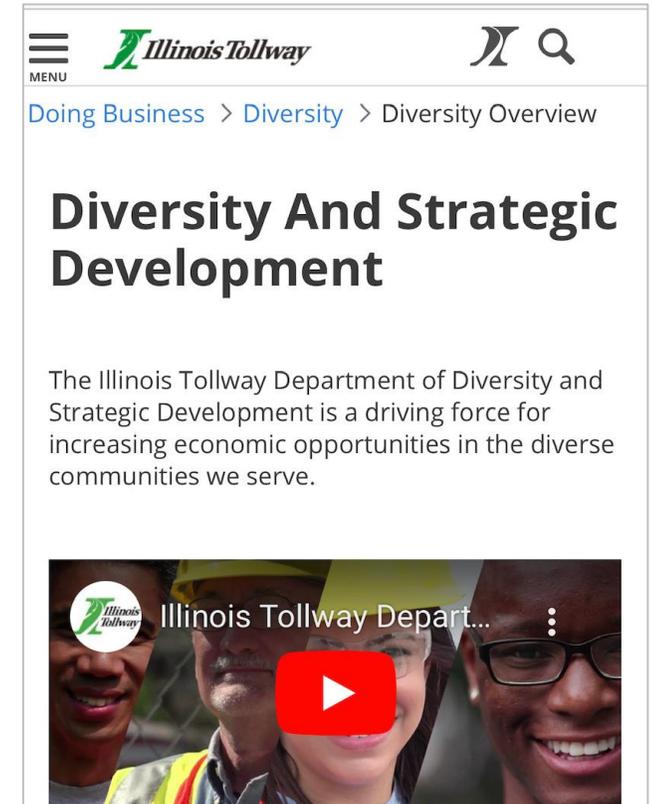
## Initiatives

- Virtual outreach sessions
- Training webinars
- Contracting opportunity emails

## Register for Tollway Diversity alerts!

- [lponce@getipass.com](mailto:lponce@getipass.com)

Visit [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) to get started



The screenshot shows the Illinois Tollway website's Diversity and Strategic Development page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Illinois Tollway logo, a menu icon, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Doing Business > Diversity > Diversity Overview". The main heading is "Diversity And Strategic Development". Below the heading, there is a paragraph of text: "The Illinois Tollway Department of Diversity and Strategic Development is a driving force for increasing economic opportunities in the diverse communities we serve." At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a video player with a red play button icon. The video player has a title "Illinois Tollway Depart..." and a small Illinois Tollway logo in the top left corner.





THANK YOU