

## News Release

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### ***Industry Forum for South Suburban Airport Attracts Global Attention***

*State Explores Public-Private Partnership Opportunities for Regional Airport*

**SPRINGFIELD** -- The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced plans for an international industry forum, *Partnering for Progress: Innovative Delivery of the South Suburban Airport*. The event will be held Sept. 23 at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park.

“Since the Federal Aviation Authority’s approval of the location for the South Suburban Airport, IDOT has been moving forward with plans to make this important project a reality,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Erica Borggren. “We look forward to showcasing this project to an audience of international investors, as well as local businesses and workers. We are delighted to be moving forward with this innovative approach to building an airport that will serve the region’s needs for generations to come.”

Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) have been used internationally for decades and have become a key project delivery strategy the past 14 years in the United States. Consistent with the Public-Private Agreements for the South Suburban Airport Act (620 ILCS 75), enacted in July 2013, IDOT intends to explore various P3 structures to develop a business plan for the project. Under these structures, a private partner may be selected by IDOT through a competitive procurement process to develop, finance, construct, manage, operate, or maintain, or any combination thereof, the South Suburban Airport. As compensation, the private partner may receive the right to certain revenues from the airport and other payments.

*Partnering for Progress: Innovative Delivery of the South Suburban Airport* is an opportunity for the public and potential business partners to learn about the South Suburban Airport project and for the state to gather feedback from stakeholders, including commercial airport developers, investors, operators, and intermodal and freight distributors. This event represents a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to seek input from market participants to ensure a feasible and successful approach to delivering an airport that will benefit the citizens of Illinois.

The industry forum is expected to attract hundreds of attendees, ranging from local laborers, contractors and qualified female- and minority-owned firms seeking to grow their businesses, to international investors and construction companies. The highlights of the conference include one-on-one meetings with potential investors from around the globe.

The South Suburban Airport, located in Will County, will serve as an economic engine for the region because of its existing major highway and railroad infrastructure, its growing population and the nearby presence of many global logistics firms. To date, IDOT has acquired approximately 3,600 acres of the estimated 5,800 needed for the inaugural airport. In addition to the ongoing land acquisition, IDOT is working with the Federal Aviation Administration to

develop an airport master plan and complete the environmental approval process for the project.

Jobs will be created for construction workers to build the airport, and once completed, employees will be hired for airport and airline operations, cargo, security, concessions, trucking and logistics, restaurants, hotels, rental car businesses and retail establishments. Potential economic benefits include the creation and retention of more than 11,000 construction jobs, as well as more than 14,000 long-term jobs.

For more information about the South Suburban Airport and to register for the forum, visit [www.southsuburbanairport.com](http://www.southsuburbanairport.com). To access the Request for Information go to [www.idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/procurements/other-procurement-opportunities/south-suburban-airport](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/procurements/other-procurement-opportunities/south-suburban-airport).

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