

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Take Advantage Of Ohio River Bridges Workshop



INDOT Certification Manager Derrick Casson (left) discusses business with VR Concrete Testing President and Co-Owner Ron Wright at the June 29 event.

Nearly 100 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) from Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio got an up-close look at the proposed East End Crossing of the Ohio River Bridges Project – and a chance to meet representatives of the four teams competing for the opportunity to design and build the bridge. The networking event for women- and minority-owned businesses, held June 29 in Jeffersonville, was sponsored by the Indiana Finance Authority and INDOT and also gave business owners an opportunity to learn about the DBE certification process.

“This event underscores Indiana’s commitment to DBE participation in the bridges project,” said INDOT’s Economic Opportunity Director Tiffany Mulligan. “We were very pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm we saw both from the DBEs and from the proposer teams.”

DBE businesses were happy with the event, as evidenced by a few quotes from participants:

“This was a great opportunity to learn more about the project and how my business might be able to contribute. It’s a big help to be able to meet face to face with major companies and establish a relationship. I’m so glad INDOT is doing this for DBEs.”

--Emma Ankenbruck, president of Piling Essential LLC of Fort Wayne

“Networking is a very powerful tool. Even if I don’t get a contract out of this meeting, I’ve made some valuable contacts for possible future work.”

--Frederick “Chip” Lee, president of C. Lee Construction Services of Gary

INDOT has entered into a reciprocity agreement for the Ohio River Bridges project with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, which will allow firms certified in either Kentucky or Indiana to qualify as DBEs in the other state.

For more information on the Ohio River Bridges project, please visit www.kyinbridges.com.