

## **IDOT Sec. Ann Schneider to Tout Minority Workforce Agreement, Affects Mississippi River Bridge**

Written by Veronica Resa  
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### **Supporters Call Agreement "A New National Model"**

**WHAT:** Clergy and grassroots leaders from across the state of Illinois will gather at the new Mississippi River Bridge in prayer for fair and equal opportunities for minorities in the construction trades, and in celebration of the passing of the statewide Project Labor Agreement. The group will be joined by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) officials, including Secretary Ann Schneider.

**WHO:** Clergy, low-wage workers, and leaders from Gamaliel: United Congregations of Metro East (UCM), Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG) in Springfield, Quad Cities Interfaith (QCI), and Gamaliel of Metro Chicago; along with St. Louis affiliates Metropolitan Congregations United.

Others scheduled to be in attendance include IDOT Secretary Ann Schneider, ESL Mayor Alvin Parks, and Washington Park Mayor James Jones.

**WHERE:** 1st Street and Exchange Avenue – East St. Louis, Illinois

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 1:00pm **DETAILS:** An agreement between the Labor Unions and IDOT, the statewide Project Labor Agreement (PLA) lays out the baseline goals for state-funded roads and bridge projects. Grassroots leaders from Gamaliel of Illinois have served as the voice of the community throughout the drafting process of the PLA to ensure that it would benefit low income and minority citizens across the state. With the looming sequester, the community leaders are calling for a prioritization of transportation funding.

This event is a part of Gamaliel's National campaign, "Fire of Faith: Rekindling Our Congregations, Rekindling Our Economy, Rekindling Our Democracy" which seeks to move 1 million people nationwide into living wage jobs by 2015.

Leading up to the press conference, members of the local affiliate, United Congregations of Metro East, will host a bus tour of the East St. Louis community and the local construction sites along with Secretary Ann Schneider and other IDOT officials. They will meet at Good Shepherd of Faith UCC (1514 Kansas Ave. ESL) at 10:00am.

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