Western access to O’Hare International Airport has long been viewed as key to reducing chronic suburban traffic congestion and renewing economic growth throughout the entire western suburbs.

The project became reality when the Illinois General Assembly gave the green light to the region’s newest highway officially providing the Illinois Tollway the authority needed to begin.

The resolution, which passed both Chambers, initiates the construction of the new tollway on the western edge of O’Hare Airport, connecting I-90 in the north to I-294 in the south. This project will also connect the Elgin-O’Hare expressway to O’Hare Airport by widening Thorndale Avenue and turning it into a tollway (see map at right).

CISCO INVOLVEMENT

CISCO and its Legislative Committee have been big supporters of this project for many years. Three years ago, Governor Quinn announced at a press conference that the $3.4 billion project could create 21,000 short-term jobs and 60,000 long-term jobs, based on economic development in the form of industry, hotels and retail that would sprout up along the western half of the airport.

Next efforts involved a coalition of business, government, community and labor leaders who went to Washington to educate and lobby for the federal government to provide funding gap dollars in the next transportation bill, which eventually passed. Finally U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth announced in February that the final agreement was in place and the Federal Highway Administration was poised to approve the plan.

State Senator Tom Cullerton, who sponsored the Senate resolution said turning the highway into a tollway was pivotal for the project to become reality. “With all the vacant small businesses in the western suburbs, this opens up warehouses for freight capacity, allows manufacturers to get their goods to market faster and helps these small business grow,” said Cullerton.

The State resolution allows construction to start on time in 2013 and will keep the project on budget. The approval of this resolution saves the project up to $100 million in construction costs, which would have incurred if construction began in 2014. The tollway will use toll revenue to fund the majority of the project’s costs.

More positive legislative news from the Spring Session in Springfield has occurred in recent days, including the passage of a bill that will enable the Capital Development Board to finish school construction projects that were part of the Capital Bill.

Please turn to page 7 for full details.
Each year, our Annual Luncheon provides an opportunity for CISCO to bring together our friends in the construction industry and celebrate the cooperation that exists between labor and management. This year was especially meaningful, as we reached an important milestone - 25 years of service to the union construction industry. With a full house of guests, CISCO’s successes were on full display. The cooperative relationship continues to grow every year not only between labor and management but also with the many organizations that are involved in construction in Northeastern Illinois.

Over the last 25 years, CISCO has evolved to address the changing needs of those in the construction industry. As new challenges have emerged in the past 5 years, we have focused on coalition building as a way to make the end user more aware of the benefits of building with union construction labor and contractors. Public-private partnerships is also a trend that has begun to take root here in Illinois as a way to fund major infrastructure and public building needs. The bottom line is that CISCO has become more relevant than ever before.

In the last 5 years, CISCO has been approached by many organizations and end-users to help support them through the approval process on a number of significant projects. In some cases, as part of a larger coalition, CISCO has helped make a difference as the project in question has created jobs and injected economic development into our 6-county service area. We support a developer through the process and in return, we ask that the project be built with union construction workers and contractors.

Through the years, CISCO’s Legislative Committee has been instrumental in testifying on behalf of several pieces of legislation that protected our industry, supported construction-friendly referendums, and helped arrange project labor agreements for both small and large projects within our jurisdiction.

Another area where CISCO has excelled over the last 25 years is promoting careers in the union construction industry. Our current Education-to-Careers Program has reached out to more than 50,000 students and adults to make them aware of the world-class apprenticeship programs and training centers, and the value of a career in the building trades.

As I looked around the room, I saw the faces of men and women who have supported CISCO’s mission of strengthening the unionized construction industry in the greater Chicago area. It would be impossible to acknowledge all the people who have contributed to CISCO over the past 25 years, but on behalf of the entire organization, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us bring the industry together to work for a better future together.

John Brining
Executive Director

Mark Your Calendars for CISCO’s “Last Swing” Golf Outing

Monday, September 9, 2013
Registration/Range: 7:00 a.m. • Shotgun Start: 8:00 a.m.
Cocktails/Lunch: 1:00 p.m.
$90 per golfer; $350 per foursome
Bloomingdale Golf Club
181 Glen Ellyn Road • Bloomingdale, Illinois

Sponsorships/Registration
Call our office today - (630) 472-9411; space is limited to 144 golfers
or check us out online at www.cisco.org
Successful organizations must always plan for the future, and for CISCO, this process has taken on new significance. Our Executive Director, John Brining, has announced he is retiring in the fall of 2013. John has lead CISCO for 7 1/2 years where he built on his 42 years of distinguished experience in the construction industry. John helped CISCO through the great recession in our construction industry and was able to keep our expenses in line with our reduced revenue while still allowing CISCO to continue promoting Union Construction in the Chicagoland area. His leadership has shown contractors, union labor leaders and many governmental agencies and developers why we call union construction the “Value Team”.

Many great accomplishments have occurred at CISCO during his watch including legislative victories such as the 2009 Illinois Capital Bill, Voluntary Collectively Bargained Workers Compensation, and the reversal of the controversial Cypress Creek Supreme Court ruling. In terms of coalition building that brought and/or will bring significant roadwork and corporate building projects to the area, tops on the list are the Tollway’s $12 billion Capital Plan, the recent approval of the $3.4 billion Western Access to O’Hare project, the $500 million Cubs renovation of Wrigley Field, Navistar’s $200 million Lisle/Melrose Park project and Centegra Health System’s $233 million hospital in McHenry County. Space prohibits me from listing more.

When asked how CISCO measures its success, John always replies that “we measure overall success by union market share.” And, in fact, union construction in northeastern Illinois boasts one of the healthiest market shares in the nation. In representing more than 140,000 union construction workers and 8,000 union contractors, he and CISCO worked hard to foster joint commitment to high quality, on-time and within budget delivery on all projects with our stakeholders. All of us at CISCO wish John the very best during his well-earned retirement.

Sincerely,

Dave Henderson
CISCO Board President

Two New Categories Highlight 2013 Project of the Year Awards

CISCO is now accepting applications for the 2013 Project of the Year Program! The program, introduced in 2004, highlights the excellence of union construction workers and contractors by promoting outstanding projects in Northeastern Illinois. This year two new categories (denoted by *) have been added:

- New Construction-Chicago (Above $20 million)
- New Construction-Suburbs (Above $20 million)
- New Construction-Chicago/Suburbs (Below $20 million) *
- Rehabilitation
- Residential Construction
- Infrastructure (Road/Excavation, Bridge or Utility) *

For more information on the program and to download an application, visit

www.cisco.org/projects-of-the-year/

All applications must be received by November 27th, so submit yours as soon as possible!
25th Annual Luncheon Offers Past Highlights and Glimpse of Future

As CISCO celebrated its past by recognizing its 25th anniversary of service to the union construction industry, Keynote Speaker Mark “Rusty” Sherwood provided a promising economic forecast for the near future of construction in northeastern Illinois.

Sherwood provided an interesting perspective in terms of where he sees opportunities in the marketplace, and identified certain trends where the construction industry could potentially capitalize and respond to certain shifts in the market.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

CISCO also announced its annual scholarship winners during the luncheon. Caitlin McCully was awarded the John E. Kenny, Jr. Founder’s Scholarship. Her father, Richard McCully, is a member of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Local #434. The Joseph Sullivan Memorial Scholarships was presented to Benjamin McManamon whose father, James, is a member of the Structural Ironworkers Local #1 in Chicago.

Winners of CISCO’s new category for students attending a community college went to Amanda Roszkowiak whose father, Quintin Roszkowiak, is a member IBEW Local #701, and to Kevin McIntyre whose father William McIntyre is a member of the Bricklayer’s ADC #1 of Illinois.

One, two-year Continuing Education Scholarship was awarded to Ryan Treacy, who is a member of the Laborers Local #4 and is employed by James McHugh Construction Company. Ryan is currently attending the University of Illinois-Chicago earning a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

Congratulations to our 2013 winners who were chosen from a field of 125 applicants.
Penny-Per-Hour

CISCO’s next Public Construction Workshop is scheduled for Monday, June 24, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon at IBEW Local 701, 28600 Bella Vista Parkway in Warrenville, Illinois. CISCO has partnered with host Power Forward DuPage (NECA-IBEW Local 701 LMCC) and the Department of Labor, Attorney General’s Office and the III-FFC to present an ideal workshop for members of the building trades, employer associations, and public/municipal procurement professionals.

The workshop will feature information on the Prevailing Wage, Employee Misclassification and Freedom of Information Acts, as well as the benefits of Responsible Bidder Ordinances. For details, visit our website (www.cisco.org).

To register for the workshop, contact CISCO at 630-472-9411 or email Julia Mulvey at julia@cisco.org.

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Construction & General Laborer’s District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
Electrical Contractors Association of City of Chicago, Inc.

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Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association
Ironworkers Local 1
Insulators Local 17
Lake County Contractors Association
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CISCO Communicator 5 June 2013
Carpenters Local 141 Provide Roof Repairs for Cancer-Stricken Family

One of the really neat, feel-good articles that I read a few months back was the story that we are reprinting below. The article comes courtesy of the April issue of The Carpenter’s Forum magazine.

When Gerri Neylon from the nonprofit Christmas Without Cancer called Johnetta Ryan at the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) about a family in an adverse situation that they were sponsoring, Johnetta knew immediately who to contact - Vince Sticca at the Carpenters Training Center in Elk Grove Village.

Christmas Without Cancer is a non-profit organization that provides gifts and basic necessities to local families that are stricken with cancer. The Grady family of Chicago’s Mt. Greenwood neighborhood was just such a family - husband requiring surgery, his wife having a brain tumor with spreading cancer, and the couple having an autistic son. When a falling limb damaged their roof there was little they could do.

In early February, Local 141 Business Representative Eamon McMahon and Members Carlos Torres and Julio Caballa volunteered to rip out portions of the roof and two skylights and install new sheeting, shingles and downspouts with elbows.

The repairs are done and we offer a big tip of the hard hat to Gerri, Johnetta, Vince, Eamon, Carlos and Julio who made a hardship softer for the Grady family.

DuPage County Hands-On Expo

Anthony Bianco, an electrician with IBEW Local 701 in Warrenville, demonstrates how electrical current flows to students during CISCO’s annual DuPage County Hands-On Expo in Carol Stream. Last February’s event was the 10th anniversary of CISCO’s partnership with the Chicagoland Laborer’s Training and Apprenticeship Center and the College of DuPage. More than 200 students attended as several building trades representatives gave students a chance to learn about their specific trade and get first-hand experience swinging a hammer, using a jackhammer or handling brick and mortar, plus a lot more.
Julio Caballa volunteered to rip out portions of the roof and two skylights and install new sheeting, shingles and downspouts with elbows. The repairs are done and we offer a big tip of the hard hat to Gerri, Johnetta, Vince, Eamon, Carlos and Julio who made a hardship softer for the Grady family.

UNION CONSTRUCTION

**Legislative Update - Spring Session Highlights**

The following synopsis represents action taken on bills by the General Assembly that the CISCO Legislative Committee has identified as important to the union construction industry: (Bills require Governor’s signature before becoming law)

**HB2869 (Capital Bill Funding)** – The passage of this bill will provide the last bond authorization needed to finish the Capital Bill’s remaining projects and provide the grants to clear the FY13 school list.

**SB2266 (Natural Gas Consumer Safety and Reliability Act)** – The passage of this bill allows for gas utilities to make necessary upgrades. Job creation and injection of billions of dollars into Illinois economy is important to union trades and contractors.

**HB1379 (Illinois Water Systems Viability Act)** – An initiative of American Water. It provides needed alternatives to communities that desperately need to upgrade their water and/or wastewater systems. An estimated 28,500 jobs to be supported and $190 billion in current private capital available for infrastructure improvements as a result of this bill. Creation and injection of billions of dollars into Illinois economy is important to union trades and contractors. Bill awaits Governor’s signature.

**HB922** – Amends the Prevailing Wage Act. Requires that contractors keep hard copy of electronic versions of certified payroll records for 5 years (was 3). This bill passed the Senate, requires House concurrence.

**HB923** – Requires contractors for which construction services are performed by an individual, sole proprietor, or partnership to report to the Department of Labor all payments made to those entities if the recipient of the payments is not classified as an employee.

**HB390** – Closes wasteful corporate loopholes costing Illinois taxpayers $445 million per year, punishing small businesses and draining resources from schools, local governments and human service providers. This bill passed the House Revenue Committee.

**HB2649 (Employee Classification Amendment)** – An initiative of the Department of Labor. Adds provisions dealing with investigations and provides for a formal hearing process to resolve cases so as to expedite the process for achieving resolutions and to insure both complainants and respondents a fair forum on a more cost effective basis. Distributes 10 percent of the civil penalties recovered by IDOL to all affected employees, in addition to the remedial benefits for loss of wages and benefits misclassified employees may be entitled under the Act. Lowers the civil penalties for violating the Act from $1,500 to $1,000 per violation in the first audit, and from $2,500 to $2,000 per violation in subsequent audits. Passed the Senate.

**HB3223** – Amends the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act to improve compliant investigation and enforcement. Promotes efficient government and expedites the payment of back wages to workers who are underpaid by contractors. Requires contractors to file the hourly overtime wage rate and the annualized hourly benefit rates; the name and address of the fringe benefit funds; and the fringe benefit fund sponsor and administrator. Passed in both the House and Senate.

**HB2615 (Fracking)** – This bill involves regulating the “fracking” industry. While the measure passed easily in both chambers, an amendment requiring energy companies to hire a state-licensed water well driller delayed the vote before industry and unions reached a compromise that gives drillers a break on extraction taxes if at least half of their employees are from Illinois.

**Pension Reform and Gaming Bill**

It is possible Governor Quinn will call a special session of the General Assembly to address Pension Reform and Gaming. Gaming is of particular interest to the CISCO Legislative Committee and to the union building trades and union contractors as passage of this bill would create construction opportunities for upgrades to race tracks, as well as building new casinos in the Chicago area.

_Editor’s Note: Some of the material used for this article was courtesy of the Illinois AFL-CIO’s Legislative Update from the May 17 and May 24 issues._
New Information

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June 2013

CISCO Communicator is published by the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO). CISCO is a labor-management group bringing together unions of the building trades and construction contractor associations representing more than 140,000 construction workers and 8,000 contractors in the six county Chicago Metropolitan area.

CISCO MISSION STATEMENT

It is the primary mission of CISCO to strengthen the unionized construction market in the greater Chicago Metropolitan area. In support of this mission, CISCO will perform three major roles: 1) Serve as a forum to facilitate dialogue between contractors and building trades union leaders concerning mutual problems and concerns; 2) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on the local construction industry; 3) Serve as a promotional group to encourage union construction with the user community and the general public. As a joint labor-management organization, CISCO will focus on cooperative efforts to reduce problems and conflicts and enhance the competitiveness of union construction. Through its activities, CISCO will build trust between the parties and will foster the joint commitment of local contractors and union labor to high quality, on-time, within budget delivery on all projects.

Suggestions, story ideas, or comments should be directed to CISCO at: 2000 Spring Road, Suite 110, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Contact Us At: Toll-free 877-562-9411, (630)472-9411, Fax: (630)472-9413, or e-mail gary@cisco.org

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