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# LECET News

February 2009

Serving Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, Boone, McHenry, Will & Grundy Counties

## LECET Continues Push for Trans- portation Dollars

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There's likely no need for yet another publication to tell you that the US economy is in a recession. If you're like most Americans, you felt it long ago and knew before any talking head on the news told you.

### Investment in Transportation Infrastructure:

- Reduces Commute Times
- Creates Good Jobs
- Stimulates the Economy
- Increases Travel Safety
- Helps the Environment

"This is such a key issue for the industry right now," said James Connolly, LECET Chairman and Laborers' District Council Business Manager. "We're intensely focused on

getting people back to work, and as always, that requires a mutual effort between Labor, management, and all our industry partners."

It's times like these that LECET takes its responsibility to protect and increase construction work in the Chicago area more seriously than ever. Simply put, we need to find ways, even in today's harsh economy, to keep our contractors and Laborers at work.

Transportation infrastructure is one area in which we see an opportunity to reclaim already lost jobs and project contracts, and ultimately to increase them in the future. While it can be debated if now is a realistic time to push to build more condo space downtown, or more retail and housing in the suburbs, almost everyone can agree that our roads and mass transit systems are in dire need of repair and expansion.

And the money is there to do it. It's a matter of getting that money freed up, channeled to the right projects and put to work for us - Laborers, contractors and all transportation users alike.

That mutual effort extends into a variety of areas - much of it governmental in nature. LECET, along with our similarly minded industry allies, has forged valuable relationships with public policy makers at all levels. These are the people and agencies that largely decide how and when to spend public money - from the President of the United States and the US Department of Transportation down to your local Township Trustee and County Board. It's our job to navigate that landscape and demonstrate to the key players that transportation spending creates jobs, stimulates the economy and in the end makes everyday life easier for everybody.

And on the surface, it's not a tough sell. The numbers are there. Whether you're talking about safety, congestion, or economic

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## Transportation Funding Crucial

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### For more on Transportation Investment:


We have gathered a number of important web links, studies, and articles on our website under the "Government Relations" page. This page will direct you to excellent resources and information on the benefits of comprehensive transportation infrastructure investment.

[www.LecetChicagoArea.org](http://www.LecetChicagoArea.org)

stimulus, there are studies and concrete numbers that strongly support the case for comprehensive transportation improvements, particularly in the Chicagoland area – and the time to act is now.

We're excited that President Obama has stated that one of his first initiatives in office will be to do exactly this – fix our crumbling infrastructure and, in turn, create jobs and

stimulate the economy. But of course it's never that simple, and we need to make sure it's done right and that the plan helps us here in Illinois. And of course we have Illinois' own Capital Bill that still has yet to be passed (*see back cover for more information*). By working closely with organizations with similar goals, LECET looks to expand its influence and take the appropriate actions to get this transportation money working for the Laborers and contractors we represent.

Jobs for tradespeople. Work for contractors. Safer roads. Less congestion. Environmental soundness. Economic stimulus. In our opinion, it's tough to imagine a better use of taxpayer money than the investment in transportation infrastructure. 

## Spotlight on the Underground Contractors Association



“Underground construction” may be an unfamiliar concept to much of the general public. By the very nature of being “underground”, you don't typically see it happening. But whether you see it or not, according to UCA Executive Director David Benjamin, underground construction consists of approximately 20-30% of all construction work. Sewers, deep tunnel projects, underground utilities, etc. are all considered underground work.

Performing this type of work takes a specialized kind of training and level of expertise. A certain task done a certain way at ground level may be a completely different animal 30 feet below the surface. Not to mention simply getting 30 feet below the surface...

Considering all this, it is no surprise that these specialized contractors come together under their own Association: The Underground Contractors Association of Illinois (UCA).

The UCA represents over 200 contractor and associate member companies involved in water sewer pipeline construction, trenchless rehabilitation and installation, wastewater treatment plant construction, phone, cable,

and electric installation, storm drainage, gas distribution and others.

The UCA focuses on a variety of important objectives to assist its members in doing business. Here's a look at just a few of their initiatives:

**Safety:** Every contractor knows how important and difficult it can be to stay abreast of the latest safety regulations. Along with creating their own Safety Awards Program, the UCA has forged strategic partnerships with organizations like OSHA, the Construction Safety Council, and Safety Alliance, LLC to develop CD-Roms, DVDs and to host safety courses and seminars to help their members stay current on the regulations, and ultimately to help give every worker the greatest possible chance to return home safe and sound every night.

**Education:** The UCA's Continuing Education Program consists of seminars and hands-on training provided by noted industry experts. Opportunities to learn how to improve a company's job performance and bottom line can be tough to come by, but the UCA makes it affordable and easily accessible for their members.

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# Safety Incentive Program

## 2nd Quarter 2008 SIP Award Winners

\$250 Gift Card to Best Buy!

<b>Laborer</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Local #</b>
Krzysztof Rebielak	A Horn, Inc.	96
Dean Doll	AW Opel Plumbing	4
Christine Ekwall	Area Equipment, Inc.	1
Salvador Cabrera	Achillies, Inc.	5
Jeff Bystry	Advanced Asphalt Company	75
Sean Cavanagh	Alexander Gammie Associates	4
Douglas Swanson	Aurora Blacktop, Inc.	149
Pete Llamas	Bulls-Eye Boring	152
Robert Bavone, Sr.	Cel-Lite Decking, Inc.	96
Chuck Herman	Commercial Resources Construction	1
Jose Arellano	Cubs Construction, Inc.	582
Ireneo Berber	Cu-Gar Masonry	118
Frank Kratz	DT Gallagher Group, LLC	4
Doug Palmer	Deckert Acoustical Floors, Inc.	96
Francisco Sajuan	Dimeo Brothers, Inc.	152
Luis Ayala	Doherty, Giannini, Reitz Construction	2
Juan Ceja-Gomez	Dominic Fiordirosa Construction	2
Ryan Reynolds	Don Bohr & Sons, Inc.	149
Francisco Ochoa	Duropave Construction Company	96
Brad Anderson	Electric Conduit Company	75
Robert Gustafson	Executive Installations	1
Rodger Schoo	FCL Builders, Inc.	149
Timothy Feeney	Feeney Excavating	75
Gerardo Hernandez	GC Masonry	1
Isidrio Garcia	GMS Plumbing, Inc.	1
Drew Salter	Gall Construction of America	25
David Robinson	Garth/Larmco Joint Venture, LLC	25
Mike Mutz	Grade RC, LLC	75
Cleothia Rule	H. Wigboldy Sons, Inc.	1
Ronala Mundio	Hard Rock Sawing & Drilling	76
Robert Carlson	John Keno & Company	2
Joseph Kuna	II In One Contractors	5
Trinidad Magallanes	K-Five Construction	96
Felipe Sandoval	Keystone Mechanical Industries	288
Jeff Cole	LJ Dodd Construction, Inc.	149
Jim Mcintire	LS Contractiing Group	1
David Huston	Lakes & Rivers Contracting, Inc.	5
Fermin Meza	Lamberti Concrete Construction, Inc.	5

<b>Laborer</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Local #</b>
Roberto Hernandez	Lombard Company	25
Craig Philbrick	M & M Welding, Inc.	1035
Jaime Abrego	Martinez Underground, Inc.	152
Justin Coners	Michuda Construction	1
Bcizarra Aguilera	Midwest REM Enterprises, inc.	2
Mario Guerrero	Norridge Sewer & Water	2
Tony Pinto	Orange Crush, LLC	76
Dean Roesel	Pepper Construction Company	96
Biagio Giovenco	Ragnar Benson, LLC	288
Nathan Pasholk	Read Excavating, Inc.	582
Scott Edwards	Reed Illinois Corporation	288
Michael Serdar	Richards Excavating, Inc.	152
Armando Herrera	Robert Lenert & Sons, Inc.	288
Cirilo Martinez	Rockford Structures Construction	1035
Jim Goodwin	Roy Strom Excavating	5
Ron Romanchik	Ruane Construction, Inc.	5
Mike Gallardo	Ryan Companies U.S., Inc.	5
Andres Barajas	Sabo Masonry, LLC	288
Rogelio Ochoa	Schroeder & Schroeder	76
Brian Burkart	Sinnett Builders, Inc.	582
David Loeza	Site Recovery Services, Inc.	76
Rick Miller	Sonoma Construction IL	4
Shawn Goll	State Line Plumbing, Inc.	2
Ken Chamberlin	Stone & Webster Construction, Inc.	75
Scott Smith	Steve Spiess Construction, Inc.	75
Brandon Hallett	Straightline Excavating, Inc.	5
Isidrio Corona	Swanson Contracting Company	25
Suzanne Tomasone	TUC, Inc.	96
Jose Berrones	Tenco Excavating, Inc.	5
Edward Parisek	Tesco Construction, Inc.	118
Jaime Peralta	Thompson Brothers Construction, Inc.	96
Rick Petersen	Thorne Associates, Inc.	269
Jeronimo Cabral	Vacala Construction, Inc.	118
Andres Pedroza	Vahey Construction Co., Inc.	2
Domingo Rodriguez	WR Weis Company, Inc.	4
Erasmus Garcia	Walsh	76
Steven Gill	Whittaker Excavating	288



# Safety Incentive Program

## 3rd Quarter 2008 SIP Award Winners \$250 Gift Card to Sears!

Laborer	Company	Local #
Pawel Szczypka	A-Plus Tuckpointing	4
Brian Ancel	Allan Mack & Sons, Inc.	75
Martin Ruiz	Allied Waterproofing, Inc.	4
Jay Ferrin	Alsterda Contracting & Construction	5
Andres Amaya	American Asphalt Surface Recycling	5
John Hannon	Amex Construction Company, Inc.	96
Marcial Lozano	Battaglia Masonry Construction	1
David Mullikin	Bouchard Masonry	96
Terrence Brew	Brew Construction Company	288
David Ayala	Circle Concrete	152
Pedro Munoz, Jr.	Curran Contracting	152
Franklin Colon	Diversified Construction	4
Charles Deering	EHC Industries, Inc.	225
Jose Rodriguez	Ebben Masonry, Inc.	118
John Fenili	Ed Henry Concrete Construction	75
Michael Ori	Ernie Peterson Plumbing	152
John Shannon	Evergreen Paving, Inc.	1
Adam Ruiz	Executive Construction, Inc.	5
Jose Godoy	Febel Brothers, Inc.	5
Daniel Fester	Fester Remodeling Company, Inc.	4
Edward Colontuno	Genco Industries, Inc.	5
Jim Colentonio	George Solitt Construction Company	1
Carlos Sanchez	Giannini Construction Company	152
Joe Ciarrocchi	Graycor Blasting Company, Inc.	269
Richard Kamp	Henry Brothers Concrete	5
Chris Steadman	Holian Asbestos Removal	225
Jon Conrad	International Contractors, Inc.	96

Laborer	Company	Local #
Jeff Olson	JW Peters, Inc.	4
Bryant Williams	John Burns Construction Company	5
Todd Schichner	K-Plus Mechanical, Inc.	269
Jose Lopez	Krusinski Construction Company	288
Jose Garcia	Lindblad Construction Company	75
Enrique Alejandro	Lindahl Brothers	96
John Novak	Lopez & Sons, Inc.	118
Efren Barragan	Masonry Construction Company	96
Cesar Quinones	Masonry Systems, Inc.	118
Dave Scalia	Matthew Paving, Inc.	5
Matthew Lafon	Mix on Site, LLC	76
Refugio Cosio	Natola Concrete, Inc.	96
Terry Speed	Nooter Construction	75
Dan McCarthy	Norcon, Inc.	4
Andrew Gazdacka	Odin Concrete Cutting	76
James Werner	Ornelas Construction Company	1
Tom Hammersmith	Pavement Systems, Inc.	5
Dan Vera	RJ Ridolfi & Company, Inc	152
William Weber	Reliable Contracting & Equipment	2
Robert Moras	Rosebrook Carefree Pools	152
Fernando Martinez	Rossi Contractors, Inc.	1
Joe Mocka	Roughneck Concrete Drill & Saw	4
Paul Miller	S & J Construction, Inc.	2
Shepherd Labovitz	SJN Subsurface, Inc.	96
Manuel Valencia	Suburban Concrete, Inc.	76
Jose Martinez	Sumit Construction Company, Inc.	76
Andrezj Kurtyka	Turner Construction Co.	76

## LECET Supports Chicago 2016

One of the most exciting developments over the past couple years around Chicago has been the 2016 Olympic Bid. After Chicago officially received the nod from the United States Olympic Committee – beating out Philadelphia, Houston and Los Angeles – we’re now down to an international field of four: Chicago, Madrid (Spain), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and Tokyo (Japan). The final announce-

ment for host city will take place on October 2, 2009.

At LECET, we could not be more excited or optimistic about Chicago’s chances to land the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the positive impact it would have on our region and our industry.

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# Olympic Bid

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One advantage Chicago has in the bidding process is the amount of existing venues that are already in place. But despite that, there will still be plenty of construction work to do in preparation for the games, including several new stadiums, the entire Olympic village, and other infrastructure and mass transit improvements.

In fact, it is estimated that the 2016 Olympic Games would generate \$22.5 billion in new economic activity for Chicago and the state of Illinois from 2011 to 2021, and 315,000 "job-years" will be created during the same period.

For these reasons, Chicago Area LECET, has teamed up with the Laborers' International Union of North America to become a Co-Chair level partner with "Chicago 2016." This includes a donation that will help the bid committee to prepare the best possible bid for the Games, as well as allow us to network at events such as the spectacular "Chicago Believes" event in Grant Park this past summer. It also gives us a voice in the entire Olympic planning process, where we will of course advocate on behalf of Laborers and union contractors.

***"The United States would be honored to have the opportunity to host the Games and serve the Olympic Movement. As President-elect, I see the Olympic and Paralympic Games as an opportunity for our nation to reach out, welcome the world to our shores and strengthen our friendships across the globe."*** -President Barack Obama, November 21, 2008, Istanbul. Taken from Chicago 2016 December Newsletter



[www.chicago2016.org](http://www.chicago2016.org)

Support for the bid among Chicagoans may not be 100% - some point to congestion during the Games, security concerns, or public expenditures as possible negatives to hosting the Games. Of course our security should always be priority #1, but we feel that issue would be addressed more than adequately, and the benefits to not only Chicago's Laborers and contractors, but all area residents and the country as a whole would far outweigh any negatives.

We encourage you to support the bid in any way possible. Even as simply as expressing your support when the topic comes up in casual conversation. The more momentum that we can build for

this bid, the more likely it is that Chicago will win in October. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity we have, and now is the time to seize it.

**WE'RE READY**

**CHICAGO 2016**

No city is better prepared to build Olympic facilities than Chicago.

Our Laborers are trained and ready. Our contractors have the expertise to get the job done.

Bring the Olympics and watch us work.

**LECET**

Build Better. Build Safer. Build Union.  
[www.lectchicagoarea.org](http://www.lectchicagoarea.org)

Ad placed by LECET in "Crain's Chicago Business" Olympics feature

# Underground Contractors Association

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**Legislation:** Like it or not, decisions being made by lawmakers from Washington DC to Springfield to every Town Hall across Illinois can greatly affect the construction industry. Under the guidance of its extremely experienced Governmental Affairs Committee, the UCA takes an active role in representing the interests of the underground construction market in pertinent legislative issues.



**For more on the UCA:**

[www.uca.org](http://www.uca.org)  
630-467-1919

**Events:** The UCA hosts several events each year. They offer an excellent way for members to network, talk shop and have some fun. The holiday party, the golf outing, and the annual convention highlight the yearly events.

**Labor:** The UCA prides itself on working hand-in-hand with labor. In fact, all of its members are union employees. The UCA leadership knows how important it is to establish strong working relationships with area labor leaders and union members. They work hard to make sure the UCA and its members are well represented not only when it comes time for negotiations, but also in all areas of mutual interest between labor and management.

For over 50 years now, the UCA has been focused on the above activities, among many others. With an active, growing membership base, and an eye toward keeping their industry as solid as possible, it's a good bet that they will be here in another 50 years.



# LECET News

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[www.LecetChicagoArea.org](http://www.LecetChicagoArea.org)

## Special Capital Bill Update

*From LECET Chairman James Connolly*

The next several weeks look to be as critical a time for the Illinois construction industry as any I can remember – and I’ve been doing this for over 30 years. Due to one of the worst economic downturns we’ve ever seen, Laborers are faced with longer layoffs and are working fewer hours than usual. And if you’re a contractor, you know how slow the market is, how few projects there are to bid on, and how much more competitive those bids are.

House Bill 1 – the Illinois Capital Bill – can help our industry, and is currently priority #1 for the Illinois Legislature. While we also hope that a federal program is soon passed, this is local legislation that will help us achieve our goals at the state level. House Bill 1 could fund a capital construction program by generating an expected \$500 million per year, which would support the issuance of \$5.9 billion in construction bonds. Under the proposal, all the revenue generated would be deposited into a new, dedicated fund to be used exclusively for debt service associated with transportation related capital projects.

Additionally, this plan would put the state in a much better financial position to provide the matching funds that will be necessary to participate in the anticipated public works program to rebuild American infrastructure that President Obama has identified as his administration’s top priority.

Your voice as an Illinois citizen will be needed over the coming weeks. Laborers, keep your eyes out for more information and mailings from LECET, your Local Union, and the Laborers’ District Council. In the meantime, contact your Illinois Representative and Senator and let them know that you support a long-term Illinois Capital program. If you need help identifying your elected officials, simply visit [LecetChicagoArea.org](http://LecetChicagoArea.org) and click on the “Find your Elected Officials” link on the home page. You will then be prompted to enter your home address. Be active and tell your elected officials to build Illinois so Illinois works!

*Thank you,  
James Connolly, Chairman*

**FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS HERE**   
[click here for a list of elected officials serving your neighborhood](#)

Look for this link on [LecetChicagoArea.org](http://LecetChicagoArea.org) to get active!