



LECET

LECET News

November, 2006

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Government Assets May Draw Big Bucks

As the City of Chicago learned first-hand in 2005 when it leased its 4.4-mile Skyway road for \$1.8 billion, public assets such as roads, lotteries, airports, and sewer & water systems can bring financial windfalls when sold or leased to private investors.

Although certainly not the first entity to embark on such a venture – the approach was pioneered overseas – the Chicago Skyway lease spurred nationwide discussion about turning public assets into quick, up-front cash. The prospect of selling or leasing a public asset for billions of dollars can prove to be extremely enticing for a government entity looking to alleviate budget shortfalls, reduce debt, or kick-start public programs such

as education without making taxpayers foot the additional bill.

However, as you might expect, it's not all quite that simple. Many questions remain about the impact these types of public-private partnerships will have on the short and long term future.

In the case of the Chicago Skyway – and the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road which leased for \$3.8 billion this year – they were losing money, so the financial soundness of turning them into billions of dollars is hard to argue on the surface. But the Illinois lottery made a \$615 million profit in 2005 and the Illinois Tollway made over \$300 million – yet both find themselves amid speculation of being leased or sold. Some argue that selling proven money-making commodities for quick cash will short-change the state in the long run.

And even beyond the financial soundness, there are further layers of questions. What will be done with the money taken in, and who will make that decision? How well will the asset be operated and maintained under private (most likely foreign) ownership? What steps will be taken to



Chicago's Skyway road was leased in 2005...could other public assets be next on the block?

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Public - Private Partnerships

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assure a fair and competitive bidding landscape and worker protection under private ownership? In the case of tollways, will there be toll increase restrictions? What control, if any, will the government and the voters retain over these once-public assets?

As you can imagine, with billions upon billions of dollars at stake, there are many groups on both sides of the debate willing to weigh in with their perspective. But with the practice being so new and relatively untested, there are many more questions than answers, and no one can truly claim to know all the implications public-private partnerships will have now and in the future.


The one thing that we know for sure is that the City of Chicago has already dipped its foot in the waters with the lease of the Skyway, and the state of Illinois

Definition:

Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

For the purpose of this article, a PPP involves a private, for-profit company buying or leasing control of a government asset.

is seriously considering following suit with the tollway and lottery. So, public-private partnerships are something that we need to pay attention to.

In the realm of union construction and more specifically the impact all this will have on the Laborers trade, again we find many more questions than answers at this point. What LECET can definitely say is that we will follow and be active in the proceedings and decision making processes. And we will continue to protect the interests of our union contractors and Laborers every step of the way, regardless of the direction our governments decide to go in this issue. 

A Common Sense Approach to Safety

Many times the subject of job site safety is talked about in terms of “time lost” and increasing insurance premiums and fines or penalties for keeping an unsafe job site. These are all most certainly a part of the safety equation and very relevant in their own right, but sometimes may fail to address what the idea of job site safety is really all about.

After all, fines aren’t levied just for the heck of it, and insurance isn’t required just to keep agents busy. These things are in place because a job site can be a dangerous place and people do get hurt. That simple fact should be all the motivation anyone ever needs to make their best attempt to keep themselves healthy every day.

Job site safety is about you and your health, happiness and well-being, not whether or not OSHA will catch you without your safety glasses on or whether your hard hat makes you a little uncomfortable.

So, when you’re on the job, of course you need to follow the safety guidelines set forth by your company and the safety regulatory agencies like OSHA, but when doing so, keep in mind *why* you are doing so – it’s for your own health and well-being. Your future and you family’s future depends upon your ability to stay healthy. Thinking of safety in these terms will make it easier to take the extra few seconds to take basic safety precautions on a daily basis.



Safety should be routine on the job site.

Following are some simple, general safety tips to keep in mind each and every day:

Eye Safety

Roughly 2,000 eye injuries occur each day in the American workplace. What could be simpler than putting on a pair of safety glasses? Regardless if there’s an OSHA guideline or company policy in place to wear safety glasses in a particular environment, wear them anyway!

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Safety Incentive Program

1st Quarter 2006 SIP Award Winners

Laborer	Company	Local #
Jamie Perez	Advance Cast Stone Company	75
Ricardo Soto	Alright Concrete Company	152
John Brajkovich, Jr.	Arandas Construction, Inc.	269
Jeffrey Rauch	B & B Construction & Excavating	75
Thomas Feltz	Bouchard Masonry	288
Jose Diaz	Break/Thru Enterprises, Inc.	225
Jesse Castleton	Bulley & Andrews LLC	4
Armenta Fermin	Canyon Plumbing, Inc.	2
Gabriel Ruiz	Carr Concrete Construction, Inc.	75
Ruben Morales	Chicago Area Building Specialties	6
Rene Montoya	Dason Masonry, Inc.	582
Dave Tomasek	Dee Plumbing	4
Scott Wyss	Diamond Unlimited, Inc.	75
Fernando Diaz	Dipietro Plumbing Service	152
Paul Collaros	Eagle Painting & Maintenance	5
Mario Galvan	First Place Concrete, Inc.	118
Brandon Hansen	Foundation Drilling Company, Inc.	288
Andres Barajas	Garth/Larmco Joint Venture, LLC	118
Angelo Bradley	George Allen Constuction Company	76
Curt Graan	The George Sollitt Construction Co.	269
Darwin Knipperberg	Gould Excavating, Inc.	75
Darin Grove	Grove Masonry Maintenance, Inc.	4
George M. Worley	Guy F. Atkinson Construction, LLC	2
Harold Garrison	Huron Mechanical Industries	118
Darris McConnell	Kankakee Valley Construction	5
Oscar Madrigal	Keystone Mechanical Industries	96
Geoff Johnson	KR & G Excavating Partners, LLC	149
Jose Gonzalez	Krahl Construction, Inc.	582

Laborer	Company	Local #
Kenneth Jastrzab	Larmco	6
Yvon Friedrich	Lenny Hoffman Excavating	152
Patrick Nichols	Litgen Concrete Cutting & Coring	76
Scott Jacobson	LS Contracting Group	1
Ahmad Muhammad	Marous Brothers Construction	1
George Pope	Midwest Property Managment	1
Isidro Limias	Mota Construction Company, Inc.	4
Jose D. Rubio	National Restoration Systems	1
Michael Tepper	Normal Plumbing Company, Inc.	4
John A. Cordray	Northern Illinois Service Company	1035
Nick Ornelas	Ornelas Construction Company	75
Bill Brogan	Pepper Construction Company	118
Randy Ross	Preferred Electric Constr. Corp.	582
Bernard Wynn	Quality First Contracting	4
Martin Valencia	R C H Masonry, Inc.	118
Ron Melia	R. Carlson & Sons, Inc.	5
Joshua Bernat	R W Collins Company	225
Pablo Cortes	Railworks Track Services, Inc.	25
Klaus Schnetzer	Roughneck Conc. Drilling&Sawing	4
Matt Dziedzic	SGL, Inc.	1
Adam Kohnhorst	Site Recovery Services, Inc.	225
John Farkas	Tribco Construction Services, LLC	4
Jesse Rodarte	Triggi Construction, Inc.	96
Roberto Palomo	Utility & Industrial Const. Company	288
Juan Muniz	V3 Construction Trades, Ltd.	288
Ray Guinto, Jr.	Vector Construction, Inc.	75
Tom Burke	Warren F. Thomas Plumbing	288
David Hake	Whittaker Excavating	288

LECET Accepting Scholarship Applications

LECET will accept scholarship applications for Spring 2007 semester until December 1, 2006.

Among other factors, eligible applicants must be:

- 1) A dependent of a Chicago Laborers' District Council LIUNA member who has been permanently disabled or killed on the job, or
- 2) A dependent of an employee of a Chicago Laborers' District Council signatory contractor that is not a member of any other union that has been permanently disabled or killed on the job.

Please visit our website at www.lecetchicagoarea.org for more information or to download an application form.





2nd Quarter 2006 SIP Award Winners

<i>Laborer</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Local #</i>
Dean Doll	A W Opel Plumbing	4
Abel Leyva	Adjustable Forms, Inc.	76
Murat Sakin	Allan Mack & Sons, Inc.	5
Caje Jensen	Alliance Contractors, Inc.	1035
Benito Gallegos	Allied Waterproofing, Inc.	4
Gaspar Gonzaga	Caldwell Plumbing Company	6
Michael Lutz	Cassidy Brothers, Inc.	4
Jesus Campos	Cecchin Plumbing Company	288
John M. Romo	Concrete By M & J	75
Marne Johnston	Conc. Struct./UMB Joint Venture	4
Gilberto Torres	Crane Construction Company, LLC	1
Enrique Garcia	Crouch-Seranko Masonry, LLC	4
Dustin Weber	D K Contractors, Inc.	152
Manuel Gardenas	Dawn Companies	5
George Eby	Diamond Coring	152
Ramon Alvarado	Diamond Environ. Service, Inc.	225
Brian Albus	Dixon Interiors, Inc.	288
Agustin Velazquez	Duropave Construction Co., Inc.	96
Alexander McKennie	Ebben Masonry, Inc.	152
Rafael Ulloa	Elliot Construction Corporation	96
Nicholas Little	FCL Builders, Inc.	5
Timothy Corbeil	F E L Services, Inc.	225
Mark J Cook	Febel Brothers, Inc.	5
Jason Smolick	Fluor Maintenance Services, Inc.	75
Vincent Lattimore	G F Structures	4
Jose C. Rodriguez	Galaxy Environmental	225
David Matz	Gallagher Asphalt Corporation	5
Joe Ciarrocchi	Graycor Blasting Co., Inc.	269
Mike Knaf	Hard Rock Sawing & Drilling	152

<i>Laborer</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Local #</i>
Rick Zambrano	Hayes Industries Ind	2
Al Bonecki	Hayes Mechanical, Inc.	152
Francisco Vera	J & E Duff, Inc.	118
John Coldwater	J S Alberico Construction Co., Inc.	75
Ezequiel Guzman	J Squared Masonry	288
Luis Rivera	Jensen Building Repairs, Inc.	5
John Nichoson	Kelly Plastering Company	1
Antonio Ayala	LCB Construction, Inc.	96
Abel Hurtado	Lino & Poli Plumbing Company	152
Alberto Arias	Meridian Industrial Service Corp.	225
Jacek Rozanski	Midwest Masonry, Inc.	4
Alfredo Garcia	Midwest Wrecking	225
Filemon Reynoso	Parking Lot Maintenance, Inc.	1
Virgilio Vazquez	Pavement Systems, Inc.	5
Oscar Munoz	Premium Concrete, Inc.	288
Ray Golec	Read Excavating Company, Inc.	96
Alex Sanchez	Restore Masonry LLC	1
Kipp M. Lacy	River City Construction LLC	152
David Casillas	Robinette Demolition, Inc.	225
Angel Flores	Roy's Paving Company	5
Charles Thomas	Ruane Construction	4
Manuel Calvillo	S & J Construction, Inc.	76
David Maybon Sr.	Sheffield Construction Corp. FKA	6
Pavel Farcav	Straightline Excavating, Inc.	5
Bradley Hoff	Sylves & Son Plumbing, Inc.	4
Javier Garza	T J Lambrecht Construction	2
Greg Kraber	T.B.S. Excavating, Inc.	288
Adam Saunders	Trench It, Inc.	96
Ben Palmer	WM Tonyan & Sons	1035

Does Your Community Have a Responsible Bidder Ordinance Yet?



You have likely heard our radio commercials or read articles in our previous newsletters regarding the importance of a Responsible Bidder Ordinance. Check our website for the latest RBO endorsement letters and information on the effort to level the public construction bidding field. www.lecetchicagoarea.org.

Common Sense Approach to Safety (cnt'd)

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Skin Safety

Skin cancer is a very real threat to someone who spends all his summer days outside in the sun. Even if you get your first spring-time sunburn out of the way at the beginning of the year then feel like you're immune to the sun's rays for the rest of the summer, you're not – your body is still absorbing all of those harmful UV rays every day and your risk of skin cancer is increasing. Use a neck flap on your hard hat, and put sun block on every day – even cloudy ones!

Hearing Loss

Almost as simple as putting on safety glasses, wearing ear plugs every day can help save your hearing. Much like sun exposure, the constant decibel levels you can be exposed to on construction sites adds up over time and wears on your hearing organs. And also like sun exposure, just because you feel like you can "get used to the noise" doesn't mean it's not harming you.


Fall Protection

Rules and regulations abound in the realm of fall protection – and for a very good reason: falls are the #1 killer in construction. Falls are something that can literally end your life in the blink of an eye, so take the time to learn and follow job site fall protection

procedures. This is one of those areas where many workers may feel the precautions are cumbersome and although good in theory, don't often apply to "real world" situations. Well, they may indeed take more time and diligence to follow, but considering they are in place to help you save your own life, the choice seems pretty clear. What good is saving 5 minutes of your day vs. suffering a tragic injury that sends you to the hospital instead of home at night?

Don't be Shy

If you see an unsafe situation on the job site, speak up and say something! It's not just the job of the safety professionals to call attention to these things – it's everybody's. You don't have to be an OSHA safety expert to know if you feel unsafe or that you are in a dangerous situation. Use a teamwork approach and talk openly about your concerns with your company safety professionals.

These are just a few general safety reminders coming from an organization that is not a safety regulatory agency, but simply values the lives and health of all working men and women. For information on specific safety regulations or codes, please talk with your company's safety professionals. 

The Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago

Membership in the Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago (MCAGC) puts a masonry contractor in the company of the best union bricklaying companies in the Chicago area, while providing them with a host of resources designed to keep union masonry the #1 choice of builders, developers and owners.

Masonry is a unique industry in that there are few projects that fundamentally require it in the construction of the building. A designer typically has a choice between masonry and other materials. So, if you are a mason contractor, you first have to convince people to use masonry in their projects before even worrying about them choosing your company to complete the work.

Of course that's not something any single contractor can accomplish alone. The MCAGC recognizes this and makes an effort to keep the masonry industry at the forefront of the construction world. And that's just the tip of the iceberg for the MCAGC. They pride themselves on providing extensive support and services to their members, including:

Networking: Meeting and getting to know other mason contractors from other disciplines and levels of management.

Contacts: Friendships made through association meetings

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Suite 302
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

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Mason Contractors Association

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result in professional contacts that help members reach their company goals.

Image: The MCAGC improves the public image of the profession through public service programs and the "Excellence in Masonry" awards program.

Lobbying: The industry's views are presented to key decision makers including architects and legislators.

Continuing Education: Seminars on scheduling, marketing, liability, insurance and many other subjects keep members up to date with a rapidly changing industry. Also, free subscriptions to "Masonry" and the "Magazine of Masonry Construction" to keep current on events that shape the industry.

Cooperation: The unification of industry efforts to work with industry associations such as MARBA for labor negotiating. Local promotion and local industry advancement funds such as CISCO and the Chicago-land Construction Safety Council.


Local Promotion: The ability to use the local masonry

institute office (ILMI) for assistance in masonry related problems. Access to industry library and staff.

Bricklayer Share Program:

Members can solve manpower problems by sharing employees in this unique program that is a win – win for both the companies and the employees.

Fund Representation: The MCAGC represents its industry by sitting on the board of trustees on many of the Laborers and Bricklayers benefit funds, including Health & Welfare, Pension, and Apprenticeship & Training.

That's a look at just some of the benefits the MCAGC provides its members. President Dick Lauber sums it up, "The Mason Contractors are a proud bunch. We're proud of our companies and the work we complete and we want to remain competitive and successful. We're all fortunate to have such an active Association which allows us to collaborate and work for common goals." 

For More on the MCA:

Jim O'Connor
1480 Renaissance Drive
Suite 401
Park Ridge, IL 60068

847-824-0146
joc@chicagomasons.com
www.chicagomasons.com

