

# **Want to Stay in Touch with IDOT's Cultural Resource Management Activities?**

**It is easy and you can access information in a number of ways.**

**The central place for the distribution of news and information is through the Cultural Resources link on the Environment page of the IDOT's website: <http://www.dot.state.il.us> or at [http://www.isas.illinois.edu/transportation\\_research/index.shtml](http://www.isas.illinois.edu/transportation_research/index.shtml) on the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) webpage. These links contain information about the Transportation Archaeology program and related activities accomplished through IDOT's partnership with ISAS.**

A number of diverse resources are available, for example a list of Route 66 National Register listed segments, the list of recognized historic bridges, guidelines for photographing historic structures, a list of transportation archaeologists by state, and a list of currently active IDOT agreements (MOAs and PAs).

## Archaeological highlights include:

- \* A regional list of IDOT Section 106 reports and derivative academic articles prepared during the period of 1956 through 2006.
- \* Access to the CRM Archives that contains nearly 20,000 grey literature documents scanned by IDOT and ISAS and made available over the web to the professional archaeological community to facilitate research.

**Curious about what IDOT archaeology projects are in the news? Go to ISAS's front page at: <http://www.isas.illinois.edu/>**

## News highlights include:

- \* News articles from *National Geographic*, *American Archeology*, and *Science Magazine* on the large-scale excavations in the East St. Louis Mound Center as

part of the new Mississippi River Bridge project connecting St. Louis with East St. Louis.

\* Information on two Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awards presented to IDOT and ISAS for their leadership and innovative methods in tribal consultation and in archaeological excellence.

\* Recognition of IDOT's *Statewide Programmatic Agreement for the Mitigation of Adverse Effects to Euro-American Tradition Archaeological Sites in the State of Illinois* as a "Best Practices" example by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

\* News articles on ISAS's joint preservation efforts with private organizations across the state.

**Want to keep up to date on what reports are available?** IDOT's cultural resource management program has been one of the most active in the nation conducting thousands of CRM assessments and hundreds of evaluation and mitigation projects in the fifty-six years of its existence.

**Report highlights include:**

\* Since IDOT centralized its CRM program in 1994 it has produced 3310 Phase I reports including many project areas that cover thousands of acres. During that period they also submitted 365 testing and mitigation reports. All of these reports are available (password protected) within a few months of completion in the CRM Archive at:

<http://www.isas.illinois.edu/crmarchive/index.shtml>

\* IDOT maintains a publication program to ensure that reports with a broader appeal are available to a wider audience. Publication availability can be found at: <http://www.isas.illinois.edu/publications/index.shtml>

\* In 1994 IDOT charged ISAS, dependent on the availability of funds, with the responsibility of ensuring the analysis and publication of data from significant archaeological sites recovered prior to federal requirements for full reporting and of sites where contracting organizations failed to complete their obligations. These include important sites such as East St Louis, Historic Hutsonville, Poissan, Cahokia, and many others. To date the East St. Louis

Southside, Cahokia Tract 15A and the Historic Kickapoo Rhoads reports have been published. Smaller outstanding reports have been completed both as stand-alone reports and as articles in regional journals. The report by Dr. Tim Pauketat on Cahokia 15B is in press and the analysis of Saukenauk by Dr. Mark Wagner is in progress.

**Wondering about IDOT and Tribal Consultation?** Tribal consultation and the treatment of human remains are important issues that have come to the forefront in recent projects.

**Consultation project examples:**

IDOT has been proactive in moving into these new areas of Section 106 consultation:

- \* Developed an award winning Project Notification System (password protected) designed by ISAS and IDOT to facilitate project review for tribal groups. Check it out at: <https://idotrfc.itarp.illinois.edu/>.
- \* Worked with FHWA and the Osage to develop a plan to preserve the base of a newly discovered platform mound with clustered burials on the Mississippi River Bridge Project.
- \* Developed a burial treatment program, in consultation with IHPA's burial coordinator that allows ISAS bioarchaeologists to collect important scientific information while preserving burials in place.
- \* Created a web-based Illinois Inventory of Burial Sites. This inventory was mandated in IHPA's 1989 Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act but never implemented. This database allow the inclusion of extended data including multiple photos and maps, lengthy narratives, and so forth. Currently this database is available to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) burial coordinator but we expect to be able to extend it to a wider audience in the future.
- \* IDOT initiated an ISAS bioarchaeology documentation program for all human remains encountered on IDOT project. This project collects the required NAGPRA information and prepares remains, in consultation with IHPA's burial coordinator, for transfer to the Illinois State Museum that

handles NAGPRA consultations for FHWA and IDOT. IDOT does not curate any human remains. These skeletal reports are available from IHPA.

\* As a goodwill gesture and in recognition of tribal concerns about burials IDOT-ISAS initiated a program of revisiting all known burial sites and mounds within a several miles radius of its field projects. These updates include collecting photographs, LiDAR documentation, mapping, and GIS locations and evaluating their current condition. Several hundred burial sites have been revisited.