Chicago Build 2026: Public-Agency Debrief

Michael Brown, GOTB Consulting. Oct 29, 2026. McCormick Place, Hall F2, Oct 28-29, 2026.

1. What this is based on

No session recordings, transcripts or slides were found online as of 1 PM CT on Oct 29 (Chicago Build says panels use no slides). The three 2026 YouTube clips found (TekMark booth and setup walk-throughs, a Prima Industry invite) have no speech. **So this debrief covers who spoke and the public record on their programs. It includes no quotes.** Anything said on stage is unverified until a recording or an agency recap is posted.

2. Key sessions

The Pipeline Ahead: Major Projects on the Horizon (Oct 29, 10:00-10:50, Stage 1)

Chair: Mike Emerson (American Structurepoint). Speakers: Zach Baughman (CDA, Managing Deputy Commissioner, leads ORDNext), Misty Brown (CTA, Sr. Manager, Outreach Programs), Chealon Shears (Cook County Capital Planning and Policy), Aaron Beyers (AECOM), Clarence A. Carson (CCRS Group). Likely the Stage 1 panel in Rosemary McDonnell's LinkedIn photos (unverified). Terri Zhu, Jason H. Bullock and Valerie Haygood were tagged in the post but are not on the published agenda.

ORDNext: Building Chicago's Gateway to the Future (Oct 29, 12:30-13:00, Stage 1)

Chair: Clarence A. Carson (CCRS). Speakers: Rachael Frank and Scott Cherney (SOM), Jonathan Doshna (Hunt), Heath Cowan (Clayco), James McInerney (BOWA). Public record: ORDNext is $8.78B. Concourse D: $1.455B GMP with AECOM Hunt Clayco Bowa, at least $21M under budget, 19 gates, late 2028. Concourse E: construction starts late 2026, 14 gates in 2030, 24 by 2034, about 460,000 sq ft; $5.7M caisson permit (No. 101079761) issued Oct 1, 2026, with Hunt as GC. Global Terminal: 2029-2033. Funded by airport revenues, not state or local tax dollars.

Meet the Government: Chicago & Illinois Construction Updates (Oct 28, 14:00-14:50, Stage 3)

Chair: Teena Lorie Harris (NFBPA). Speakers: Sharla Roberts (City of Chicago CPO), Nicole Mandeville (Cook County Deputy CPO), Anthony Falada (Chicago Dept. of Water Management), Mahesh Mohnalkar (CHA), Ted Gibbs (Secretary of State).

Small Businesses, Big Impact: Certification and Opportunities as SBE, DBE, MWBE Firms (Oct 28, 15:00)

Bruce Montgomery (Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion), Désirée M. Otkins (Cook County Business Enterprise Development), Curtis Thompson (NAMC Chicago), Sergio Terreros (NAHICA), Ann McNeill (NABWIC).

Other public-sector sessions

- The Future of Minority Contracting: federal policy changes (Oct 29, 13:25; Curtis Thompson, NAMC Chicago).
- Illinois Works: Equity and Inclusion in Construction and the Trades (Oct 29, 15:10; DCEO team incl. Ashley Knight, Bid Credit Program).
- In Transit: Everything You Need to Know About NITA (Oct 29, 12:00; Audrey Wennink, MPC).
- Housing at Scale (Oct 29, 11:00; CHA, DPD, Buildings Commissioner Marlene Hopkins).
- Climate Adaptation for Chicago's Infrastructure (Oct 29, 11:00; Sayeh Amirshaghaghi, Chief Water Engineer).
- Oct 28 sessions with Frank Grimaldi (City Design & Construction), Marlene Hopkins and John Gallagher (Water), Soliman Khudeira (CDOT), Jana Williams (City of Chicago), Ann Kalayil (CTA board) and Duey Stroebel (HUD).
- No Chicago Public Schools (CPS) speaker appears on the agenda.

3. Illinois Works bid credits (public record)

$0.50 of credit per dollar of the trade's mean statewide prevailing wage, per apprentice hour (14 Ill. Adm. Code 680.220). Earned by hiring Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship grads in a DOL Registered Apprenticeship. Credits

lower the bid amount used for ranking on State-funded capital work. They are not cash. Requests cover work done no more than 90 days before filing.

4. What it means for small, diverse and local firms

- ORDNext will release packages for years: Concourse E (from late 2026) and the Global Terminal (from 2029). Know the primes (AECOM Hunt Clayco Bowa; Hunt on Concourse E) and get certified before packages are advertised.
- Use the agenda as a contact list for City, County, CHA, CTA, Water and CDA procurement and outreach.
- Check certification reciprocity and the Illinois Works bid credit rules.
- Watch for posted recordings. If any come out, update this debrief with quotes.

5. Sources

- Chicago Build 2026 agenda: https://www.chicagobuildexpo.com/coference-agenda
- Pipeline panel: https://www.chicagobuildexpo.com/coference-agenda/panel-pipeline-ahead-major-projects-horizon
- ORDNext panel: https://www.chicagobuildexpo.com/coference-agenda/panel-ordnext-building-chicagos-gateway-future
- Meet the Government: https://www.chicagobuildexpo.com/coference-agenda/panel-doing-business-government-agencies-chicago-illinois
- Zach Baughman bio: https://www.chicagobuildexpo.com/speakers/zach-baughman
- City of Chicago, Concourse D GMP (June 26, 2026): https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2026/may/ord-under-budget.html
- City of Chicago, Concourse E (Aug 2026): https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2026/august/concourse-e-ohare.html
- CDA Concourse E: https://ord21.com/projects/Pages/TheNewConcourseE.aspx
- Concourse E permit coverage: https://windycitymagazine.com/news/news-2026-10-08-ohare-concourse-e-first-permit/
- DCEO Bid Credit Program: https://dceo.illinois.gov/illinoisworks/bidcredit.html ; 14 Ill. Adm. Code 680: https://my.ilga.gov/agencies/JCAR/EntirePart?titlepart=01400680
- Videos reviewed (no speech): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQpH6GjAPeA , https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9fD4A_rGfE , https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1JdTGPmWJI