



# NEWS

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## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY APPROVES 2012 BUDGET**

*Balanced Budget Provides Funds for Capital Projects Outlined  
in First Year of the Move Illinois Program*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved a balanced 2012 Budget providing nearly \$609 million for capital projects, including funding for the first year of the agency’s new 15-year capital program, Move Illinois: *The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Capital program allocations in the final 2012 Budget increased from the 2012 Tentative Budget approved in October by \$1.2 million, from \$607.5 million to \$608.7 million, to accommodate fuel system improvements at Tollway maintenance sites systemwide.

Additional changes from the 2012 Tentative Budget also include allocation of \$267.5 million for maintenance and operations, reflecting a \$1.6 million increase to fund a mandatory State Employees’ Retirement System account payment, which was increased from \$36.6 million to \$38.2 million. The final 2012 Budget also includes a new Department of Diversity and Strategic Development, with funding reallocated from existing departments.

“This balanced budget enables us to prepare for the challenge of undertaking the largest capital program in this agency’s history,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “We spent the last year putting our fiscal house in order, making sure our operations are honest and efficient and reviewing how to improve our customers’ experience, while also ensuring that we are doing everything possible to live within our means.”

To fund the 2012 Budget, revenues in 2012 are projected to increase \$293 million, from \$680 million in 2011 to \$973 million in 2012, primarily due to a toll rate increase for passenger vehicles approved by the Board last August and scheduled to begin on January 1, 2012. Of the \$973 million in estimated revenues, \$963 million is from tolls and evasion recovery, \$1 million is from investment income and \$9 million is from concessions and miscellaneous revenue.

These revenues will allow the Tollway to allocate funds to begin Move Illinois Program projects, including construction of the new interchange at the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and I-57, construction of a new interchange at Illinois Route 47 on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and work to prepare for the rebuilding and widening of I-90 scheduled to begin in 2013. Also, in 2012, capital projects will include roadway rehabilitation on the central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from 95<sup>th</sup> Street to Balmoral Avenue, resurfacing on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) between Illinois Route 56 and Illinois Route 251 and completion of the Tri-Level Bridge Project improving ramps connecting I-294 and I-90.

“The financial plan approved today will allow the Illinois Tollway to continue to provide a high level of service while improving and expanding travel options that enhance regional mobility and save our customers time,” said Illinois Tollway Board Chair Paula Wolff.

The Tollway has made extensive efforts to reduce maintenance and operating costs in 2011. The 2012 Budget reduces utility expenditures by approximately \$1 million due to efforts to reduce energy consumption and enhance energy efficiency and reduces insurance costs by more than \$1 million. Further, the Tollway is maintaining its current head count of 1,598 employees, while preparing to take on the largest capital program in the agency's history.

In keeping with the Tollway's commitment to increasing transparency and accountability to the public, the 2012 Budget is posted on the Illinois Tollway website for public review. The Tollway offered a number of opportunities over the past two months for public participation in the annual budget process, including an open house event at the Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis and a budget hearing at Tollway headquarters, which was also accessible live online with opportunity for the public to submit questions electronically during the hearing.

### **About Move Illinois**

The Illinois Tollway's \$12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: *The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, will improve mobility, relieve congestion, reduce pollution, create 120,000 jobs and link economies across the Midwest region. Move Illinois will address the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system; rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; build a new, all-electronic Elgin O'Hare West Bypass and fund planning studies for the Illinois Route 53 Extension and the Illiana Expressway.

### **About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 286 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

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