NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON 2013 TENTATIVE BUDGET
November 13 public hearing, November 14 open house and webinar available to public

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors is inviting the public to review and comment on the agency's 2013 Tentative Budget by attending public meetings, emailing comments or viewing an online presentation. The proposed spending plan currently under review by the Board of Directors covers annual maintenance and operations on the 286-mile system, as well as $922 million in capital projects, including the second year of the agency's 15-year, $12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.*

"This budget doubles the Tollway's capital spending over 2012, prioritizes improvements to our roadways and customer service, identifies new efficiencies and keeps our growth in baseline operating costs to just 4 percent," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. "We look forward to hearing what our customers have to say about our 2013 spending plan."

A copy of the 2013 Tentative Budget is posted on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com and may be requested by contacting the Illinois Tollway at 630-241-6800. Comments may be mailed to 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515, or submitted via the Tollway's website.

The Tollway is offering the following ways for members of the general public to participate in its budget process:

- Public Hearing – On Tuesday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m., the Tollway will hold a public hearing at its headquarters at 2700 Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove. The public is invited to attend in person or view a live webcast hosted on the Tollway's Web site at www.illinoistollway.com. Public comment will be accepted at the hearing, orally or in writing, as well as via the webcast. Participants attending via the webcast can send their comments to be read by the moderator during the hearing or request the virtual comment be submitted as a written comment.

- Open House – On Wednesday, November 14, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. the Tollway will host an open house at the O'Hare Oasis on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Schiller Park. The open house format will allow the public to view displays and a budget overview and ask questions of representatives from the Illinois Tollway. Public comment will be accepted in writing or can be shared orally for the record with a court reporter.

- Webinar – The Tollway is offering a virtual presentation of the 2013 Tentative Budget to allow the public to access the agency's financial information at their convenience. The webinar is posted on the Tollway's Web site and features video with the 2013 Tentative Budget PowerPoint presentation.

After the Board of Directors has reviewed the public comments and any changes have been incorporated, a final budget will be presented for approval by the Board of Directors at its December 13 Board meeting.

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"This is a responsible budget that demonstrates the Tollway's dedication to maximizing operating efficiencies and minimizing costs," said Illinois Tollway Board Chair Paula Wolff. "The Board is committed to hearing the public's opinions on how their tolls are spent. As we begin our review, we look forward to considering their ideas about this budget plan."

About the 2013 Tentative Budget
The proposed 2013 Tentative Budget outlines $770.9 million in funding for *Move Illinois* projects, including the start of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project, completion of the new interchange at Illinois Route 47 on I-90, continued construction of the new interchange at the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and I-57 and the start of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. Also in 2013, capital projects will include pavement resurfacing and lighting improvements on the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), as well as other systemwide roadway and bridge repairs.

Revenues are projected to increase $13 million, from $973 million budgeted for 2012 to $986 million budgeted for 2013. Of the $986 million in estimated revenues, $977 million is from tolls and evasion recovery, $1 million is from investment income and $8 million is from concessions and miscellaneous revenue. The Tollway also plans to issue as much as $1 billion in new bonds in 2013 to provide funding for new and future capital investments.

These revenues will allow the Tollway to allocate $283 million for maintenance and operations, an increase of $15.9 million over 2012. Upon adjusting for accounting reclassification of costs previously funded in the capital budget, baseline operating costs will increase 4 percent, consistent with the long-term financing plan outlined for the *Move Illinois* Program.

The Tollway has continued to make extensive efforts to continue to identify efficiencies in order to present a balanced 2013 Tentative Budget. The proposed spending plan includes budget efficiencies that will save the Tollway more than $5 million in 2013, including: $2.3 million in annual savings on new transponders through a new contract; $1 million in annual revenue recovery from the installation of new camera washing technology that produces a higher volume of license plates reads during winter months; $1 million in savings from lower credit card fees and $800,000 in savings on utility costs as a result of the Tollway's energy efficient upgrades.

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 as many as 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 21st 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 Western Access and fund planning studies for the Illinois Route 53/120 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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