



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 22, 2022**

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ELEVATES DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER TO INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
*Lead engineer on \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project*  
*to oversee day-to-day agency operations*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Illinois Tollway Board Chair Dorothy Abreu today announced the elevation of Lanyea Griffin, Deputy Chief of Program Implementation and 22-year engineering veteran, to Interim Executive Director of Illinois’ primary tolling agency, effective April 1.

Griffin joined the agency in 2013 helping to launch the agency’s 15-year, \$14 billion Move Illinois capital program as a lead engineer and program manager. Since then, she has been an integral part of the engineering team managing the agency’s systemwide engineering, construction, maintenance and day-to-day roadway operations through unprecedented levels of investment and diversity. In her role as interim executive director, Griffin will lead the Illinois Tollway, which oversees Illinois’ 294-mile Tollway system and a \$1.49 billion annual budget and \$1.49 billion capital program in 2022.

“On behalf of my fellow board members, we’re excited to announce Lanyea Griffin as interim executive director,” said Tollway Board Chair Dorothy Abreu. “At this time, it is important for the agency’s leadership to be in tune with the agency’s critical work, and Lanyea is one of the best and brightest the Tollway has to offer. She’s dedicated to serving our customers and to maximizing our investments in our regional infrastructure.”

Since 2018, Griffin has been serving as a Deputy Chief of Program Implementation overseeing the Tollway’s \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. During her eight-year tenure at the Illinois Tollway, Griffin also managed design for the eastern end of the \$2.5 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) rebuilding and widening completed in 2017, including delivery of the region’s first SmartRoad with automated traffic management. In addition, she managed construction to deliver Phase One of the \$719 million I-294/I-57 Interchange, creating the first connection between the two interstates in south suburban Chicago.

“I’m honored to be recognized for my work here at the agency and for having the opportunity to have a greater impact not only on the Tollway’s Engineering efforts, but also on all the other aspects of the Tollway – supporting the staff that works hard every day to serve our customers and create economic opportunities for communities and small and minority businesses throughout Northern Illinois,” said Griffin. “I’d like to thank Chair Abreu for her support, as well as for the support of the Board of Directors and would be remiss if I did not also thank former Executive Director José Alvarez for his tireless work over the past three years.”

Prior to joining the Tollway, Griffin worked for several engineering firms and also for the Village of Maywood. She is a Northwestern University graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in civil/environmental engineering and served as a civil engineer in the Air Force National Guard. Griffin currently resides in Chicago with her family.

**About the Illinois Tollway**

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The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways 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), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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