



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ILLINOIS TOLLWAY RELEASES 2023 DBE DISPARITY STUDY

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway today announced its draft 2023 DBE Disparity Study report examining contracting practices and its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program is now available for public review.

The Illinois Tollway's DBE Program is designed to reduce barriers that limit opportunities for small, minority- and women-owned firms to participate on construction and related professional services contracts awarded by the agency.

The draft 2023 DBE Disparity Study report is available in the [Diversity section](#) on the Tollway's website [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

The 2023 DBE Disparity Study was undertaken as part of a continuing effort by the Illinois Tollway to ensure equal opportunities in all aspects of its *Move Illinois* capital program, including contracting and consulting.

Conducted by Colette Holt & Associates, the study analyzed how the agency awards construction and professional services contracts, including reviewing the use of the agency's DBE Program. The study also examined whether disparities exist between the opportunities and experiences of DBEs in the contracting process and the availability of such businesses compared to the utilization of non-DBEs for those contracts. Finally, the study makes recommendations on potential improvements the Tollway could make to further increase the impact of the DBE Program on disadvantaged firms.

Colette Holt & Associates will present the 2023 DBE Disparity Study at the Tollway Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting scheduled on May 11, 2023. The Tollway Board of Directors is anticipated to vote on May 25, 2023, to accept the study and adopt its recommendations to help update the Tollway's DBE policies to remove obstacles limiting the utilization of small, minority and women-owned firms in competing for agency contracts.

Following acceptance of the 2023 DBE Disparity Study by the Tollway Board, an information meeting, including a presentation by Colette Holt & Associates, will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. in the Illinois Tollway's Downers Grove Headquarters with an option to attend virtually. More information is available [here](#) in the Diversity section of the Tollway's website.

The Tollway has worked to increase access to opportunities for small businesses, D/M/WBEs and underemployed individuals through a variety of specialized programs, including the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), the Veterans Business Program and the Partnering For Growth Program.

The agency also has created a Technical Assistance program for small and diverse businesses and developed workforce training programs including the Earned Credit Program and ConstructionWorks.

**About Move Illinois**

The Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 152,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first 11 years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor and opening a new interchange connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57. Progress continues on projects addressing the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system, delivering the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

**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 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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