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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AWARDS MORE THAN \$5.5 MILLION IN CONTRACTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

Nearly \$4.4 billion invested since start of Move Illinois Program

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved two new contracts totaling \$5.5 million at its September meeting, including a construction contract award determined by the use of Earned Credit Program credits.

Nearly \$251.2 million in construction and professional engineering service contracts have been approved by the Tollway Board so far in 2016, as part of the fifth year of the Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

The Illinois Tollway's Earned Credit Program (ECP) is a rewards initiative that allows contractors and subcontractors to earn bid credits that can be applied toward future Tollway construction bids when they hire from a pool of qualified, pre-screened job candidates, including underemployed African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, women, eligible offenders and exonerated individuals, veterans and other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)-eligible individuals as determined by federal household income guidelines.

"This is a real-life example of how ECP credits can help a firm win a contract, which goes hand in hand with our commitment to diversify and expand the pool of companies and individuals working on Tollway construction projects," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "The upside is that we're putting people to work in Illinois and helping them launch new careers with good-paying jobs."

Since the program launched in 2007, companies doing business with the Tollway have hired more than 240 ECP workers who have earned more than \$12.1 million in wages. Of the workers hired, 69 percent are African American, 13 percent are Latinos and 13 percent are veterans, with women comprising 28 percent while 72 percent are men.

In addition, the use of ECP credits to bid on Tollway projects has grown dramatically since the program began, with 10 bids, or 7 percent, of bids submitted with ECP credits in 2007 compared to 68 percent, or 155 bids submitted with ECP credits from January 2015 to present. Altogether, bid credits valued at nearly \$1.3 million have helped firms participating in the program win 22 construction contracts with the Tollway since 2007.

September contracts approved by the Board include:

- A \$3.8 million construction contract to John Burns Construction Company, Orland Park, IL, for fiber optic relocation services throughout the Illinois Tollway system.
- A \$1.7 million professional engineering services contract to a joint venture with Gewalt Hamilton Associates Inc. and Atlas Engineering Group, Northbrook, IL, for construction management services for a new westbound entrance ramp at the Roselle Road Interchange on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90).

The new contracts approved today include a prime consultant, a subconsultant and a subcontractor that are certified as disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms, as well as one subconsultant that is a certified veteran-owned firm. Of the \$5.5 million awarded for these contracts, nearly \$1.4 million, or 25 percent, is committed to veteran-owned or disadvantaged firms.

To date, nearly \$4.4 billion in construction and professional engineering service contracts have been approved by the Tollway Board since the *Move Illinois* Program began in 2012, including more than \$1 billion committed to small, veteran-owned or disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned firms. In addition, the capital program has created or sustained an estimated 45,230 total jobs as of August 2016.

Construction contracts for Illinois Tollway projects are competitively bid under the rules of the Illinois Procurement Code. As part of the process, contractors' bid submissions for construction work advertised by the Tollway are opened and read aloud during public bid opening meetings, which are also broadcast live on the Tollway's website. Following an agency review process, the lowest, responsible and responsive bid is presented to the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors for review and approval.

Illinois Tollway professional engineering services contracts are awarded through the qualifications-based selection process (Illinois Public Act 87-673 (30 ILCS 535/1-535/80) Architectural, Engineering and Land Surveying Qualifications-Based Selection Act), which requires state agencies to select professional architects, engineers and surveyors on the basis of demonstrated competence and professional qualifications, rather than low bid. Staff from the Department of Engineering checks statements of interest to ensure that specified pre-qualifications and documentation are met and then reviews and scores statements of interest based on the selection criteria outlined for each project. Executives from the Department of Engineering then review the scoring, as well as each firm's capacity, and identify the top recommended firms per project. To complete the review, a committee of Tollway professionals and independent engineering officials considers the top recommended firms and finalizes the top three firms in ranked order. The Tollway then seeks to negotiate a final contract price with the top-ranked firm.

The Illinois Tollway provides detailed information about current Tollway construction contracts through the Construction Contract Tracker on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com. Contractors and consultants can also access resources online to help them learn about how to do business with the Tollway, including construction bid-letting schedules, professional service bulletins, manuals and construction bid calendars. These resources can be found in the "Doing Business" section of the Tollway's website.

About *Move Illinois*

The Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$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 Project and fund planning studies for emerging projects.

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 292 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), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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