



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN ILLINOIS TOLLWAY 2017 MAP COVER ART CONTEST

Nearly 40,000 votes cast for student artwork displayed online and at Tollway oases

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway today announced that Luis Chavez, a junior at Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook, is the grand prize winner of the 2017 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest: Enhancing Drivers Experience via Innovation and Technology.

The contest is sponsored by the Illinois Tollway, Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate Services Inc. (MBRE).

Students selected as runners-up in the contest were:

- First runner-up – Alyssa Elborne, Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook
- Second runner-up – Vanessa Arenas Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook
- Third runner-up –Manuella Rodela, Bolingbrook High School in Bolingbrook

“We are proud to display Luis Chavez’ winning artwork on the cover of the 2017 map to remind customers of the Tollway’s investments in technology and innovation,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “We thank the students and their teachers for participating and also members of the public who voted in record numbers to choose our four finalists.”

Nearly 40,000 votes by members of the general public were cast online to identify four finalists, with the overall winner and runners-up selected by a panel of judges including members of the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors and representatives from MBRE.

“I’d like to thank my teacher, Mr. Sullivan for giving me the opportunity and to my family and friends for supporting me,” said Luis Chavez. “This has really been a fun and exciting contest and experience for me.”

Recognizing that high school students throughout the region are the next generation of drivers, the Illinois Tollway invited students in the 12 counties served by the Tollway to submit original works of art that illustrate what a SmartRoad can offer drivers as part of the 2017 Map Cover Art Contest.

The Illinois Tollway is building state-of-the-art roadways to improve travel, reduce congestion and better serve its 1.6 million daily drivers. In 2017, the Tollway will roll out the first SmartRoad on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) incorporating active traffic management, integrating transit and delivering a 21st century corridor.

SmartRoad will provide real-time travel information via dynamic electronic signage, integrate Flex Lanes for Pace buses to provide reliable service and include flexible technologies so new smart features can be added as they come online in the years ahead.

Student artwork submitted for the 2017 Map Cover Art Contest focused on how emerging technology and innovations on the Illinois Tollway will benefit drivers by:

- Providing new and improved services
- Creating a more efficient, reliable way to communicate with drivers

- Ensuring greater safety

In all, the Tollway received more than 90 entries from high schools throughout the region and 10 semi-finalists were selected for public voting. The artwork of the 10 semi-finalists, including the winning entries, is currently on display at each of six Illinois Tollway oases.

“With so many innovative designs submitted by talented young artists this year, MBRE is very excited to co-sponsor the 2017 Tollway’s student art contest,” said Alma Becerra, general manager of MBRE. “Congratulations to the winner and to all who participated this year.”

Artwork created by the grand prize winner will be featured on the cover of the Tollway’s 2017 map, which is distributed at no cost to more than 75,000 customers. Artwork created by the winner and runners-up will be featured in the Tollway’s 2016 annual report. Awards presented to the finalists include:

- The grand prize winner was presented with \$400 in gift certificates from Blick Art Materials and \$200 in gift certificates from MBRE to use at oases retail shops and restaurants.
- The runners-up received \$200 in gift certificates from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from MBRE.
- All students who participated in the contest received a certificate of appreciation from the Tollway.

“Blick Art Materials congratulates the grand prize winner and finalists in the Tollway art contest,” said Blick Art Materials Chief Executive Bob Buchsbaum. “We are impressed with the level of creativity shown in the students’ visions of the future and are proud to co-sponsor this worthy endeavor.”

About Blick Art Materials

Founded in Galesburg, IL, in 1911, Blick Art Materials is one of the largest and oldest providers of art supplies in the United States, with 66 retail stores nationwide. Its products cater to the full spectrum of artists – from the youngest child ready to scribble with his or her first crayon to well-known, gallery-represented professionals. The company’s extensive selection, competitive prices and superior customer service make Blick the best choice for art educators, students, artists, architects, designers, hobbyists or anyone requiring quality art materials for work or pleasure. A long-time advocate of art education in the U.S., Blick also provides support of scholastic, collegiate and professional art shows, both financially and through a variety of materials that emphasize the benefits of art education. Blick also supports the communities in which it does business by sponsoring in-store events, local schools, art leagues and community groups across the country. Visit dickblick.com for more information.

About MB Real Estate Services Inc.

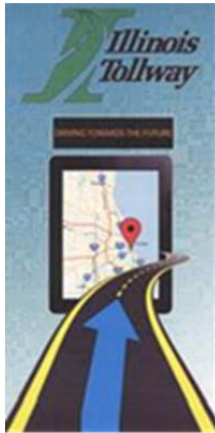
Founded in 1982, MB Real Estate is a full-service real estate organization that provides multifaceted expertise in asset/facilities management, leasing services, project/construction management, tenant representation and investment services. Additionally, MBRE Healthcare provides comprehensive real estate solutions for hospitals, health systems and physicians throughout the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, with regional offices in New York, Atlanta, Orlando, Dallas and Denver, MB Real Estate provides these services to corporations, institutions, professional organizations, private investors and non-profit agencies. For more information, please visit mbres.com.

About the Illinois Tollway

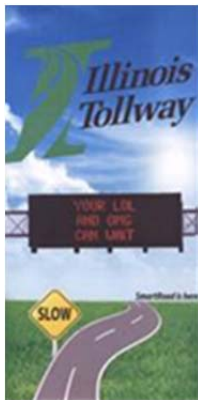
The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 292 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), 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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2017 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest winners



Grand Prize Winner – Luis Chavez, Bolingbrook High School



First runner-up – Alyssa Elborne, Bolingbrook High School



Second runner-up – Vanessa Arenas, Bolingbrook High School



Third runner-up – Manuella Rodela, Bolingbrook High School