



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 15, 2016**

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AWARDS NEARLY \$340 MILLION IN CONTRACTS  
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN 2016**

*Nearly \$1.1 billion committed to diverse, minority- and women-owned businesses,  
as well as small and veteran-owned firms since start of Move Illinois Program*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved three new construction contracts totaling \$11.7 million at its December meeting. Nearly \$340 million in construction and professional engineering service contracts were approved by the Tollway Board in 2016.

The contract awards mark the final Board action for the fifth year of the Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Overall, a total of \$4.5 billion has been invested by the Tollway since the *Move Illinois* Program began in 2012, with nearly \$1.1 billion of that total committed to small, diverse and veteran-owned firms. In addition, the capital program has created or sustained an estimated 48,740 total jobs as of November 2016.

“While we still have room to improve, we’re pleased to see that more than one-third of the firms working with the Tollway during the first five years of the capital program have been disadvantaged, minority- or women-owned businesses and veteran-owned firms,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “This year, Illinois Tollway reaffirmed its commitment to increase diversity among contractors and consultants, and as a result, in 2016 we have seen an increase in participation by African American-owned firms.”

In all, the Tollway has awarded 51 contracts to 43 unique construction and professional engineering service firms in 2016. These firms have worked to keep the Tollway system in good repair and have also delivered significant improvements for Tollway customers including on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and on the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

The contracts approved today include one prime contractor that is a certified small business, three subcontractors that are certified as disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms and two subcontractors that are certified veteran-owned firms. Of the \$11.7 million awarded for this month, nearly \$4.3 million, or 37 percent, is committed to small, veteran-owned or disadvantaged firms.

December construction contracts awarded include:

- A \$6.9 million contract to Lorig Construction Co., Des Plaines, IL, for widening and reconstruction of the Illinois Route 23 Bridge on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90).
- A \$2.8 million contract to Lorig Construction Co., Des Plaines, IL, for noisewall repair as well as signage, drainage and landscaping work at various locations on the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294).

- A \$2 million contract to Matthew Paving Inc. Oak Lawn, IL, for pavement rehabilitation at the Downers Grove (M-14) maintenance facility.

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.

The Illinois Tollway provides detailed information about current Tollway construction contracts through the Construction Contract Tracker on the Tollway's website at [illinoistollway.com](http://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 throughout the 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 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; deliver the 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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