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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY TO HOST NETWORKING EVENT TO PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2017 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES WORK

Firms invited to connect with other firms to build teams and to learn about diversity goals, programs and resources

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is hosting a 2017 Professional Engineering Services Networking Event on Tuesday, March 14, in Downers Grove for firms interested in participating in various design and construction management contracts and other professional engineering services throughout the Tollway system. The upcoming work is part of the 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

"As we begin work on the sixth year of the *Move Illinois* Program, we plan to commit nearly \$1 billion in 2017 for construction projects, along with \$4 million to promote diversity among the firms and people working for the Tollway," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "We are better as an agency and as a state when there are more firms competing in the construction industry and when we provide real opportunities for small, diverse and veteran-owned firms and individuals to participate."

The event will provide an opportunity for firms of all sizes and types, including disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms, as well as small and veteranowned businesses to connect with other firms to build teams to work on Tollway contracts advertised in Professional Services Bulletin (PSB) 17-2, as well as identify work that will be advertised in upcoming PSBs in 2017.

In 2017, the Tollway will be setting DBE goals on professional services contracts using the most recent data from the 2015 Disparity Study. This update is anticipated to result in an increase in the overall DBE goal percentage for professional engineering services contracts as compared to the previous Disparity Study data used by the Tollway. In addition, the Tollway is adjusting veteran goals for professional services based on contract performance data over the past two years.

Firms can learn about specific goals for participation of DBE and veteran firms established for contracts, as well as other programs provided by the Illinois Tollway to strengthen and diversify the heavy highway construction industry, including the Partnering for Growth Program.

The Partnering For Growth Program is an incentive program designed by the Illinois Tollway to encourage professional engineering services consultants to mentor and assist D/M/WBE firms and veteran-owned small businesses to become self-sufficient, competitive and profitable businesses. The program provides a way for prime consultants to receive credit toward advertised diversity goals for serving as a mentor and providing meaningful instruction, technical assistance and beneficial resources to a protégé firm.

The 2017 Professional Engineering Services Networking Event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree Suites & Conference Center, 2111 Butterfield Road in Downers Grove.

Speakers will include Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov, Diversity and Strategic Development Department Chief Gustavo Giraldo and Deputy Chief of Program Controls and System Integrity Greg Stukel.

Event registration is available on the Illinois Tollway website <u>illinoistollway.com</u>. Pre-registration closes at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 13, but onsite registration will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14.

About Move Illinois

The Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first five years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st 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 planning for emerging projects, including 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 292 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.