



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 5, 2017**

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND PACE LAUNCH NEW SMARTROAD WITH FLEX LANE  
FOR PACE BUSES ON THE JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90)**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL --** The Illinois Tollway and Pace Suburban Bus, along with regional project partners and local officials, today activated the I-90 SmartRoad on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway that includes advanced technology to provide real-time roadway information to drivers and a dedicated Flex Lane for Pace buses to use whenever traffic conditions warrant.

“Adding SmartRoad is another improvement we’ve made for our customers—from the commuters who use I-90 to get to work and get home again, to our commercial customers, who rely on I-90 to efficiently ship their products around the Chicago area and across the country,” Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom said. “Using the Flex Lanes will allow the buses to keep moving and provide reliable service to their customers and ours and all of these improvements make it easier and more efficient for our customers to use I-90 – either by car or bus – and to better reach the communities and businesses near the road.”

The Tollway’s \$2.5 billion I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project completed in 2016 features a 16-mile SmartRoad that incorporates active traffic management using cameras, sensors and overhead gantries to more quickly bring detailed roadway information to drivers so they are better able to make their personal travel decisions. Flexible infrastructure and innovative technology enables the Tollway to communicate with drivers in real-time to provide traffic incident information, lane closures, traffic pattern changes and travel times.

The Tollway also will be able to add new “smart” features to the roadway as they become available in the future.

The new SmartRoad operating between Barrington Road and the Kennedy Expressway also was designed to accommodate transit for the first time in the agency’s history with the new Flex Lanes dedicated for Pace bus travel. Pace also will operate three new Park-n-Ride stations constructed along the Tollway.

Pace expanded its service on I-90 in late 2016 after the rebuilding and widening project was completed and its buses now will be able to shift into the new inside Flex Lane to continue traveling at roadway speeds if traffic slows.

“We’ve already seen significant ridership growth along the I-90 corridor. On average, ridership has increased about 20 percent a month since our December 2016 service expansion,” Pace Board Chairman Richard Kwasneski said. “It shows that when transit is competitive with the private automobile, people will choose it.”

## Illinois Tollway and Pace Launch I-90 SmartRoad

The inside Flex Lane is available to buses and emergency vehicles and will allow Pace passengers to avoid traffic delays and reliably maintain their schedules when travelling on the tollway.

Pace offers frequent express bus service in the I-90 corridor, connecting Elgin, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg and Rosemont for easy access to suburban jobs and convenient connections to other Pace buses and CTA trains. Parking at Pace's Randall Road Park-n-Ride Station in Elgin and the Northwest Transportation Center in Schaumburg is free. Travel round trip between Elgin and downtown Chicago is \$4.50 (including a transfer to or from the CTA Blue Line). Pace Express buses offer free Wi-Fi and USB charging ports under the seats.

Project partners include the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Cook County, Kane County, Village of Hoffman Estates, and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

### **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.

### **About Pace**

Pace is Chicagoland's suburban bus and regional paratransit provider. Pace's family of public transportation services also includes vanpool, rideshare matching, community-based transportation programs, and, soon, Pulse, Pace's new rapid transit network. Learn more at [PaceBus.com/Pulse](https://www.pacebus.com/pulse).

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