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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CHIEF ENGINEER HONOURED
BY ILLINOIS ASPHALT PAVEMENT ASSOCIATION

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway’s Chief Engineer Paul Kovacs has been named “Person of the Year” by the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association for his contributions to the advancement of the asphalt industry. Kovacs was honored earlier this week at the association’s annual meeting in Springfield.

“We are extremely pleased to see Paul Kovacs recognized for his hard work and accomplishments as chief engineer of the Illinois Tollway,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “He and his team have successfully adopted innovative and sustainable practices for our pavement materials, helping to ensure that our Move Illinois Program is the cleanest and greenest in the agency’s history.”

Kovacs was chosen for the award because of his unique, positive impact on the asphalt association and industry, according to IAPA Executive Vice President Kevin Burke III.

“The Tollway’s Move Illinois Program continues to showcase the advantages of warm-mix asphalt pavements,” said Burke. “We are proud to honor Paul Kovacs as our Person of the Year.”

The Illinois Tollway seeks to minimize the environmental impact of roadway construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. That includes using recycled concrete aggregate, reclaimed asphalt pavement, reclaimed asphalt shingles and industrial waste products such as fly ash and ground granulated blast-furnace slag.

The use of warm-mix asphalt in lieu of hot-mix asphalt is now required on all Tollway projects as part of the 15-year, $12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future. The use of warm-mix asphalt reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions during production, increases the quantity of recycled asphalt in mixes and improves the overall quality of pavements. Warm-mix asphalt can be paved at lower temperatures, which extends the construction season into cold weather months.

“It’s a great honor to be recognized by the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association,” said Kovacs. “Credit for these accomplishments goes to the Tollway Engineering Department, including my team of exceptional materials engineers, and to Chair Paula Wolff and the Tollway Board of Directors and Executive Director Kristi Lafleur for their full support of our building green efforts.”

Kovacs is responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of the Illinois Tollway’s 286-mile system of roadways serving 1.4 million daily users in Northern Illinois. He is currently overseeing the fourth year of Move Illinois, the largest capital program in the Tollway’s history. Under his leadership, the Tollway estimates that its contractors have used more than 1 million tons of warm-mix asphalt on its construction projects over the past three years.
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 and fund planning studies for the Illinois Route 53/120 Project, Illiana Expressway and other 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 286 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) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).