



*Move Illinois:  
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 7, 2013

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY HOSTS CONSTRUCTION NETWORKING EVENT FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway will host a free Construction Networking Event on Thursday, January 9, to provide an opportunity for large and small businesses – including disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprises (D/M/WBE) – to learn how to participate in upcoming projects as part of the Tollway’s 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

The Illinois Tollway’s 2014 Budget includes \$1.4 billion for the largest year of capital spending in agency history, including funding for the third year of the agency’s *Move Illinois* Program. The 2014 Budget provides \$1.1 billion in funding for *Move Illinois* projects, including continuing to rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor; continuing construction of a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and I-57; building a new, all-electronic Elgin O’Hare Western Access and funding planning studies for the Illinois Route 53/120 Project. Also in 2014, capital projects will include systemwide roadway and bridge repairs and other work to address the needs of the existing Tollway system.

“As we prepare for the 2014 construction season, the Illinois Tollway continues its commitment to ensure firms of all sizes have the opportunity to participate in our capital program,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “Our networking event offers small businesses the opportunity to meet and make connections with prime contractors and provides firms of all sizes the resources they need to bid on Tollway contracts.”

The networking event will be held at the Sheraton Chicago O’Hare, 6501 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and will provide small businesses involved in the highway construction industry the opportunity to establish or build relationships with larger construction contractors currently doing business with the Tollway.

Illinois Tollway Chief of Staff Mike Stone, Chief Engineer Paul Kovacs and Tollway Diversity and Strategic Development Chief Gustavo Giraldo will provide presentations at the Construction Networking Event, which will include an overview of the Illinois Tollway’s *Move Illinois* Program, including highlights of work scheduled for 2014, as well as information about large and small construction opportunities, resources for prime and subcontractors and new small business construction contract goals.

In addition, there will be a workshop on how the Earned Credit Program (ECP) can benefit small businesses. ECP is a rewards initiative that allows contractors and subcontractors to earn bid credits toward future Tollway construction bids when they hire from a pool of qualified, pre-screened job candidates, including underemployed African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, women, ex-offenders and veterans. Information will also be available about the Tollway’s other diversity and workforce development initiatives, including the Small Contractor

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Bridge Program, the Construction Business Development Center and the Construction Coaching for Growth Program.

Event exhibitors will include Aldridge Electric, Curran Contracting Co., F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, Illinois Constructors Corp., Lorig Construction Co., Plote Construction Inc., R.W. Dunteman Co. and William Charles Construction Co.

Pre-registration closes at noon on January 6, but onsite registration will be available beginning at 1 p.m. on January 9, 2014.

#### **About Move Illinois**

The Illinois Tollway's \$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 and the Illiana Expressway.

#### **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).

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