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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CHIEF ENGINEER HONORED BY MARCH OF DIMES

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway’s Chief Engineer Paul Kovacs has been named “Professional Honoree of the Year” by the Chicago Chapter of the March of Dimes Foundation for his contributions to the construction and transportation industries and for his service to the community. Kovacs will be honored on Friday, April 4, at the annual March of Dimes Construction & Transportation Luncheon at the Hilton Chicago.

Kovacs and other March of Dimes honorees were chosen for their positive reputation and contributions to the growth and development of their industry, participation and contributions to various industry and association activities and contributions to the community and charitable activities.

“I am extremely proud of the work Paul Kovacs has accomplished as chief engineer of the Illinois Tollway,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “He and his team have done an excellent job to keep our Move Illinois projects on time and within budget, as well as maintain our roadways – not only during one of the most difficult winters in Chicago history, but every day throughout the year.”

Kovacs is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation 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 third year of the Illinois Tollway’s 15-year, $12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future. Move Illinois is the largest capital program in the Tollway’s history and the largest capital program of any toll road agency in the nation.

Kovacs earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois and is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Michigan. Joining the Tollway in 1999, he served as the Open Road Tolling Program Manager and Deputy Chief of Project Implementation prior to his appointment as Chief Engineer. He counts delivering open road tolling as his most significant public service, playing a leadership role in building the largest open road tolling system in the nation with more than 2.2 million daily toll transactions. Open road tolling saves drivers an estimated two hours of travel time per week.

Now in its 20th year, the March of Dimes annual foundation event is the largest gatherings of the construction and transportation industries in the Chicago metropolitan area. It provides an opportunity for individuals and businesses to come together in support of the March of Dimes mission to prevent and reduce premature birth and birth defects and promote good health for moms and babies through research, education, advocacy, community programs and support. Proceeds from the event will directly fund the research and programs that help to ensure that every baby receives a healthy start to life.

“I’m honored to be recognized by the March of Dimes,” said Kovacs. “The award represents much more than my individual achievements. It reflects greatly on the help and support provided to me from Chair Paula Wolff and the Tollway Board of Directors, Executive Director Kristi Lafleur, Tollway staff, consultants and contractors who have all contributed to the success of our work at the Tollway.”
In addition to his work at the Tollway, Kovacs is a contributor to the American Cancer Society, the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and St. Jude’s Children's Hospital. He also served as the past president of the state champion Waubonsie Valley High School hockey team.

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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