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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ISSUES ITS 5 MILLIONTH I-PASS TRANSPONDER
AS POPULAR PROGRAM KEEPS GROWING

In nation’s most widely used electronic tolling program, 87 percent of all transactions done with I-PASS

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur today congratulated the
newest customers to join the Tollway’s I-PASS program in recognition of the Tollway’s 5 millionth
transponder during a celebration of the agency’s popular electronic tolling program.

First launched in 1993, the I-PASS system saves customers an estimated two hours of weekly travel
time by allowing them to pay tolls electronically while driving at highway speeds through open road
tolling lanes.

The Illinois Tollway operates the largest open road tolling system in the country, with more than 2.2
million daily toll transactions and 5 million transponders in use. More than 87 percent of all transactions
are I-PASS transactions, giving the agency the highest national percentage of customers who choose
to pay electronically.

I-PASS users also pay 50 percent less than customers who must stop – and sometimes wait in line – to
use cash. I-PASS rates for trucks and vehicles with trailers vary.

“I-PASS has created a whole different experience for our customers, who don’t even have to slow down
to pay their tolls as they travel, something that was unimaginable not all that long ago,” said Executive
Director Lafleur. “We expect I-PASS to continue to remain popular because drivers save so much time
and money by using it.”

Executive Director Lafleur greeted Val Pehler and Ted Krason when they visited the Illinois Tollway
Customer Service Center located in its Central Administration building in Downers Grove on Tuesday
afternoon to open their I-PASS account and become part of the celebration for the Tollway’s sale of 5
million I-PASS transponders. Pehler and Krason also were presented $100 in I-PASS gift cards that
can be used to refill their I-PASS account to ensure miles of worry-free Tollway driving.

“I talked him into coming down here to get I-PASS,” said Pehler, a Chicago resident. “It’s so easy to use
and it doesn’t expire, so we can use it for a long time.”

“She said we had to get it because it saves time on the Tollway, plus I really like the fact that you can
use it in other states, too,” said Krason, a Brookfield resident, adding his new I-PASS transponder also
will make it easier for him to visit his brother in the south suburbs.

The popularity of I-PASS has soared in recent years. The Tollway issued its 1 millionth I-PASS
transponder in 2003, a decade after launching its electronic tolling program. Since 2003, the Tollway
has issued an additional 4 million transponders.

“The large number of I-PASS transponders in use demonstrates how important this program has
become to our customers, who appreciate the safety, convenience and cost savings offered by
electronic tolling,” said Illinois Tollway Board Chair Paula Wolff.
Customers can easily manage or add more funds to their I-PASS accounts by visiting the Tollway’s website, www.illinoistollway.com.

I-PASS can be used anywhere on the Tollway, as well as on other tollways using E-ZPass, including the Chicago Skyway and Indiana Toll Road.

As a member of the E-ZPass Group, the Tollway is part of the largest interoperable toll network in the world. There are more than 25 million transponders in use and, in 2012, a total of more than 2.4 billion transactions were processed by the 25 member toll agencies in 15 states.

**Transponder Fun Facts**

I-PASS transponders save drivers time and money, but don’t take up much space: a single transponder weighs only 1.9 ounces, while measuring about 3¾ inches long by two inches wide and nine-tenths of an inch thick. But combining the 5 million transponders now in use would have a big impact:

- Laying 5 million transponders end-to-end would cover about 292 miles, longer than the 286-mile length of the Illinois Tollway system.
- Stacking 5 million transponders would create a pile 71 miles high, enough to reach the Karman Line, the atmospheric boundary of space.
- Together, the 5 million transponders weigh nearly 593,000 pounds, the equivalent of nearly 200 sedans or more than 1,100 full-sized, 500-pound gorillas.

Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur, left, presents Val Pehler and Ted Krasn with a certificate and $100 in I-PASS gift cards after they opened an I-PASS account Tuesday during a celebration marking the issuance of the Tollway’s 5 millionth I-PASS transponder.

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**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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