Illinois Tollway Trees Initiative
Systemwide Landscape Masterplan
November 29, 2017
Bryan Wagner
Today’s Agenda

Tollway Systemwide Landscape Master Plan

- Program goal and objectives
- Approach
- Planting methodology
- Research
- Implementation and maintenance
- Planting approach and cost summary
Landscape Master Plan Concept

Goal
• Establish and maintain healthy tree communities along the 294-mile length of the Illinois Tollway system

Objectives
• Identify locations for planting trees within the Tollway system
• Update planting standards and specifications based on recommendations provided by The Arboretum
• Develop experimental approaches for tree installation and care in stressful roadway conditions
• Develop extended term maintenance programs
• Install 58,000 trees with the intent of increasing regional tree canopy coverage
• Identify viable living snow fence locations

Presented by Bryan Wagner on November 29, 2017
Assessment Approach

Guiding criteria

• Clear zone
• Utilities
• Drainage
• Soils
• Accessibility and maintenance
• Connectivity
• Sustainability – short- and long-term maintenance
• Compatibility with Tollway sustainable initiatives
Planting Methodology

Layout

• Dense planting areas
• Scattered planting areas
• Functional live snow fence and research areas
Site Preparations and Research

Soil and bed preparation

- Tilling and excavation
- Root development and amendments
  - Biochar, compost, biosolids

Auger 3 - 36” Diameter Holes Per Tree

Existing Soil Surface

Incorporated organic material

12 inch till depth

16 inch rip depth

6’ x 6’ 16” Depth
Maintenance

**Short term:**
Years 0-2, including planting year, to be conducted by the landscape contractor

**Mid-term:**
Years 3-5 to be conducted under separate maintenance contract

**Ongoing:**
Years 5 and beyond to be conducted by Tollway Maintenance
Phased Implementation

**Recommended Phasing**

- Year 1 (2017)
- Year 2 (2018)
- Year 3 (2019)
- Year 4 (2020)
- Under Planning – Exclusion Area
Planting Approach and Cost Summary

Tree sizes and availability
• 3, 5, 7 and 15 gallon container grown or equivalent (approximate 4’, 5’, 6’ and 10’ heights)
• Program timeframe, physical size, diversity, grow rate and growth rate comparisons across species

Move Illinois tree budget
• Average cost per tree is $363
• Budget exists within Move Illinois for 58,000 trees
THANK YOU