



Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2018

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AWARDS MORE THAN \$140 MILLION IN CONTRACTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN JANUARY**

Nearly \$5.6 billion invested since start of Move Illinois Program

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved five construction contracts and one professional engineering service contracts totaling \$140.4 million at its January meeting, including a contract award determined by the use of Earned Credit Program (ECP) credits.

Approval of the January contracts marks the start of the seventh year of the *Move Illinois* Program. To date, nearly \$5.6 billion has been invested by the Illinois Tollway since the 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, began in 2012, with more than \$1.5 billion of that total committed to small, diverse and veteran-owned firms. Of the more than 1,300 firms participating on contracts during *Move Illinois*, nearly 840 are working with the Tollway for the first time. In addition, the capital program has created or sustained an estimated 57,070 total jobs as of December 2017.

“With more than \$1 billion committed for capital spending in 2018, the Illinois Tollway is creating opportunities for construction and engineering firms throughout the region, supporting economic growth in Illinois,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “This month’s contract awards show that there is strong competition for Tollway work and that participation in the Earned Credit Program can provide contractors with a competitive edge.”

As part of this month’s contract awards, William Charles Construction’s use of ECP bid credits gave the firm an advantage and resulted in the lowest bid for roadway resurfacing work on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88).

The use of ECP credits to bid on Tollway projects has grown dramatically since the program began, with 10 bids, or 7 percent, of bids submitted with ECP credits during the first year of the program in 2007, compared to 57 bids or nearly 36 percent of bids submitted in 2017. Overall, the use of ECP credits has influenced the award of 28 contracts with a cumulative value exceeding \$289 million and the use of nearly \$1.5 million in credits.

The Illinois Tollway’s ECP offers contractors and subcontractors a chance to earn bid credits toward future Tollway construction bids when they hire workers from a pool of qualified, pre-screened candidates that includes minorities, women, eligible offenders and exonerated individuals, veterans and other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible individuals. Once an eligible employee is hired and retained, a contractor can continue to accumulate bid credits for up to five years.

ECP bid credits afford contractors and subcontractors a bidding advantage in a highly competitive industry. A contractor can lower bids and increase the chances of winning contracts by applying ECP to construction bids. Subcontractor-earned credits can also be added to a prime contractor’s use of earned credits in order to lower bids. Currently, 31 construction contractors and subcontractors hold active Illinois Tollway ECP certificates.

January construction contracts awarded include:

- A \$83.8 million contract to a joint venture with Curran Contracting Co., Crystal Lake, IL/Geneva Construction Company, Aurora, IL, for roadway and bridge rehabilitation, on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) from Annie Glidden Road to Illinois Route 56.
- A \$48.6 million contract to a joint venture with William Charles Construction Company, Loves Park, IL /Rock Road Inc., Rockford, IL, for roadway and bridge rehabilitation, on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) from Illinois Route 251 to Annie Glidden Road.
- A \$4.7 million contract to Meade Inc., McCook, IL, for advanced fiber relocation on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from North Avenue to Wolf Road as part of the I-490 Tollway Project.
- A \$1.3 million contract to Foundation Mechanics, Des Plaines, IL, for fencing and site improvement work systemwide.
- A \$295,535 contract to Western Remac Inc., Woodridge, IL, for bridge signage improvements on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) from Illinois Route 25 to Lee Street.

January professional engineering services contract awards include:

- A \$1.6 million contract to GSG Consultants Inc., Chicago, IL, for construction management services for the 159th Street Bridge reconstruction on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

The contracts approved today include one prime consultants, three subconsultants, one prime contractors and 29 subcontractors that are certified as disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms and one subconsultants, as well as six subcontractors that are certified veteran-owned firms. Commitments for D/M/WBE participation range from 15 to 72 percent per contract and commitments for veteran participation range from one to three percent per contract.

Illinois Tollway professional engineering services contracts are selected in accordance with the qualifications-based selection process (Illinois Public Act 87-673 (30 ILCS 535/1-535/80) Architectural, Engineering and Land Surveying Qualifications-Based Selection Act), which requires state agencies to select professional architects, engineers and surveyors on the basis of demonstrated competence and professional qualifications, rather than low bid. Contract services staff from the Engineering Department checks statements of interest to ensure that specified pre-qualifications and documentation requirements are met. Tollway engineers and managers then review and scores statements of interest based on the advertised selection criteria service. Tollway Diversity Department staff also reviews the statements of interest for compliance with advertised diversity criteria. Executives from the Engineering Department then review the scoring, as well as each firm's capacity, and identify the top recommended firms per project. To complete the selection, a committee of Tollway professionals and independent engineering officials considers the top recommended firms and finalizes the top three firms in ranked order. The Tollway then seeks to negotiate a final contract price with the top-ranked firm. The award of a professional engineering services contract is dependent on approval by the Tollway Board of Directors.

Construction contracts for Illinois Tollway projects are competitively bid under the rules of the Illinois Procurement Code. As part of the process, contractors' bid submissions for construction work advertised by the Tollway are opened and read aloud during public bid opening meetings, which are also broadcast live on the Tollway's website. Following an agency review process, the lowest, responsible and responsive bid is presented to the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors for review and approval.

The Illinois Tollway provides detailed information about current Tollway construction contracts through the Construction Contract Tracker on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com. Contractors and consultants can also access resources online to help them learn about how to do business with the

Tollway, including construction bid-letting schedules, professional service bulletins, manuals and construction bid calendars. These resources can be found in the “Doing Business” section of the Tollway’s website.

About Move Illinois

The Illinois Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first six years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as opening a new interchange connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57. Progress continues on projects addressing the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system, delivering the new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for 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 294 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), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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