



NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND CITY OF ROCKFORD CELEBRATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90) GATEWAY

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway joined Rockford officials today to recognize partnerships that are bringing together the Tollway’s maintenance site redevelopment project with Rockford’s Forest City Beautiful initiative to enhance the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) gateway landscaping and artwork restoration.

“The Tollway and City of Rockford are united for a common cause – to grow economic opportunities for the region,” said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. “As Rockford works to put its best foot forward at its gateway, the Illinois Tollway is proud to be a strong partner in this effort doing our part with the completion of our new maintenance facility building and landscaping.”

The Tollway Board of Directors, on Thursday, September 27, agreed to an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Rockford for landscaping improvements and enhancements at the I-90 gateway as part of its \$33 million Rockford Maintenance Site restoration project. The Rockford City Council is scheduled to approve the agreement tonight.

“First impressions are critical. I’m extremely excited that the front door to Rockford will soon be getting an extreme makeover,” explains Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara. “Updated signage, new public art and improved landscaping will make a fantastic first impression to all those entering our community.”

Under the agreement, the Tollway expanded its landscaping for the maintenance site to include the I-90 State Street gateway area with a total of \$215,000 invested to cover removal and restoration of trees and plantings by the Tollway and irrigation and lighting improvements by the city. The City of Rockford will reimburse the Tollway \$30,000 for improvements.

In addition, through a separate agreement the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is restoring the gateway art installation and taking on ongoing maintenance for the gateway as part of the Forest City Beautiful initiative.

“Since its inception, Forest City Beautiful’s focus has been to restore public landscapes through the enhancements and maintenance of plantings and installation of public art for local residents and visitors to enjoy” said RACVB President and CEO John Groh. “We appreciate the Tollway’s support to extend our vision to Rockford’s I-90/East State Street gateway. The new gateway enhancements will provide a great welcome at city’s primary gateway.”

Improvements of the new gateway includes a complete new landscaping plan, including installation of trees, perennial plants, a new welcome message on the sculptural art panels and electrical and irrigation updates important to ongoing maintenance of the landscaping.

The Tollway’s Rockford maintenance site adjacent to the State Street (Business U.S. Route 20) Interchange has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for sustainable design and construction. The new 35,000-square-foot facility serves as a fleet hub,

maintenance garage and Illinois State Police office and is designed to optimize its efficiency to meet expanded system needs.

LEED construction requires reuse and recycling of at least 75 percent of construction waste on site and use of recycle content and regional materials in the new facility. In addition, LEED design features will incorporate energy-efficient lighting, photovoltaic panels to feed power back into the grid and electric vehicle charging stations. The use of in-floor hydronic radiant heat and overhead natural gas radiant heat will be included to further reduce energy costs, along with water efficiencies through installation of low-flow fixtures and landscaping requiring little or no irrigation.

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 roadways 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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