



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION NAMED GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Illinois Tollway Deputy Chief of Program Implementation Clarita Lao was selected for the 2018 Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award by the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Lao will be recognized at an awards ceremony tonight in Chicago.

“Clarita Lao is the consummate engineering professional whose leadership and significant contributions to public-sector engineering evokes the admiration of her peers throughout the engineering community,” said ASCE Illinois President Dhooli Raj, P.E. “She is a remarkable engineer who is truly deserving of the Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award.”

Each year, ASCE Illinois recognizes outstanding civil engineers and civil engineering projects throughout Northern Illinois. The complete list of [2018 award recipients](#) is posted on the ASCE Illinois website, [isasce.org](http://isasce.org).

This Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award recognizes professional accomplishments and unique contributions to the civil engineering profession or community. The award is presented annually to a professional engineer who has sustained outstanding engineering achievement in the public sector and has served to advance the civil engineering profession, improving the conditions under which engineers serve in public practice and contributing to both professional organizations and community services.

“Clarita is an outstanding engineer who brings a wealth of experience and leadership skills in successfully implementing Tollway projects,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “We are proud of her achievements and recognition by her peers in the civil engineering field for her accomplishments and contributions to the industry.”

Lao was recognized for her engineering career accomplishments spanning more than three decades, her leadership and management skills and dedication to engineering excellence. As deputy chief of program implementation, she is responsible for providing overall project management and support for multiple engineering projects from inception to completion, including projects that are part of the Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

She currently oversees design of the \$4 billion reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from 95<sup>th</sup> Street to Balmoral Avenue. Previously, Ms. Lao was responsible for construction oversight of the \$719 million Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange Project in the Chicago Southland completed in October 2014.

Named a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2013, Ms. Lao is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois and the Planning Division of the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association. She is also a member of the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers.

**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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