



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 26, 2018**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON 2019 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

*Three public hearings and webinar available for public to learn more;*

*Comments welcome via email, U.S. mail or in person*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors invites the public to review and comment on the agency’s Tentative 2019 Budget by attending public meetings, sending comments or reviewing information online.

Public comment on the 2019 Tentative Budget will be accepted through November 30. After the Board of Directors has reviewed the public comments and any changes have been incorporated, a final budget will be presented for approval by the Board at its December 20 meeting.

“The Tollway’s Board of Directors is committed to delivering a balanced spending plan that puts customer safety and service first and wisely reinvests toll revenue back into improvements that support our system as well as the regional transportation network,” said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. “We encourage the public to view the tentative budget for 2019 and share their comments,”

Public comments may be mailed to 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515, or submitted via the Tollway’s website [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) through November 30. A copy of the Tentative 2019 Budget is posted on the Tollway’s website along with a Tentative 2019 Budget PowerPoint and video presentation to allow the public to access the agency’s financial information at their convenience.

The Illinois Tollway will also host three public hearings to present the Tentative 2019 Budget and accept public comments. Public attending the budget hearings may submit comments orally or in writing.

- Tuesday, November 13, at 6 p.m., at the Rosemont Village Hall, 9501 Devon Avenue, Rosemont, IL 60018.
- Wednesday, November 14, at 6 p.m. at the Aurora Police Department Community Room, 1200 E. Indian Trail, Aurora, IL 60505.
- Thursday, November 29, at 8:30 a.m., Illinois Tollway headquarters, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

### **Tentative 2019 Budget**

The 2019 Tentative Budget, currently under review by the Board of Directors, outlines a balanced spending plan for 2019, improving service to customers, reducing the number of employees to the lowest level in 30 years and allocating \$1.5 billion in revenue to fund maintenance and operations, debt service and capital investments on the 294-mile system. The budget will support \$1.4 billion in capital spending for the eighth year of the agency’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

The proposed 2019 Tentative Budget anticipates \$1.5 billion in 2019 revenues, an \$55 million increase over the current 2018 estimate, primarily due to continuing increases in toll transactions coupled with a truck toll rate increase previously approved by the Tollway Board in 2008. The 2019 estimated

revenues include \$1.47 billion is from tolls and evasion recovery, \$30 million is from investment income and \$10 million is from concessions and miscellaneous revenue.

The 2019 Tentative Budget allocates revenue to support infrastructure with more than \$1.1 billion for direct funding and debt service on capital investments, as well as \$365 million for maintenance and operations – an increase of just \$13 million over the 2018 operating costs.

The Illinois Tollway plans to reduce its current headcount while operating a new roadway on the Illinois Tollway system and continuing the largest capital program in the agency's history. The agency's headcount will be reduced by 30 to 1,468 employees, reducing agency's staffing levels to the lowest level in three decades.

Overall, the 2019 Tentative Budget includes \$94 million to support customer service and tolling technology, \$34.8 million to improve roadway safety and law enforcement services, \$71 million for roadway maintenance, technology and traffic management and \$20.6 million for information technology enhancements.

The Tollway's 2019 Capital Program calls for investing \$1.4 billion in 2019 for the eighth year of the *Move Illinois* Program with \$397.6 million budgeted for systemwide roadway and bridge repairs and technology investments to keep the existing Tollway system in good repair and funding for key projects including:

- \$423.3 million to continue planning and advance construction for the new I-490 Tollway and new interchanges connecting to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Illinois Route 390 Tollway, as well as providing direct access in and out of O'Hare International Airport as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project
- \$444.7 million to continue design and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project
- \$28 million to begin design and construction to complete the I-294/I-57 Interchange

### **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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