



# NEWS

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## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BOARD APPROVES BALANCED 2019 BUDGET**

*Spending plan supports \$1.4 billion investment in Move Illinois capital program*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved a balanced 2019 Budget, anticipating \$1.5 billion in revenues allocated to fund maintenance and operations, debt service transfers and capital investments for the 294-mile system.

In addition, the budget will allow the Tollway to commit \$1.4 billion for 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 Tollway is committed to strong fiscal management and customer service," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. "We are pleased to deliver a balanced annual budget for Board approval that puts the public's money into projects and services that improve travel and safety on our system."

The 2019 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 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.

"We are committed to delivering first-class service and roadways to our customers and working with other local and state agencies to improve mobility throughout the Northern Illinois region," said Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. "As we reach the midpoint of our capital program, we are focused on keeping our existing roads and bridges in a state of good repair and delivering new infrastructure to support the regional transportation network and accelerate the wheels of commerce."

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 continued 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) and access to O'Hare International Airport, as well as reconstruction of the

Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and \$28 million to begin work to complete the I-294/I-57 Interchange.

The 2019 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.

In keeping with the Tollway's commitment to increasing transparency and accountability to the public, the 2019 Budget is posted on the Illinois Tollway website [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) for public review. The Tollway offered a number of opportunities over the past two months for public participation in the annual budget process, including public hearings in Rosemont, Aurora and at the Tollway's Downers Grove headquarters.

### **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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