



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AWARDS \$92 MILLION IN CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN JULY

Nearly \$607 million approved in 2019 as part of the eighth year of the Move Illinois capital program

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved three new construction and professional engineering service contracts totaling \$92 million at its July meeting, including a contract to rebuild the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge to accommodate the widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Nearly \$607 million in construction and professional engineering services contracts have been approved by the Tollway Board in 2019, as part of the eighth year of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

"Reconstruction of the BNSF Railway Bridge will make room on I-294 to improve the overall driving experience through one of the busiest section of the Tollway," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "As the bridge is expected to last for decades to come, the bridge is being designed to accommodate foreseeable future needs to the greatest extent possible."

The contract approved today will allow the Tollway to remove the existing three-track BNSF Railway Bridge and replace it with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of I-294 underneath.

The project will begin in summer 2019 with construction of a bypass bridge that will allow for uninterrupted freight and commuter rail operations during bridge reconstruction. Work on the BNSF Railway Bridge is scheduled to continue through 2022.

To date, more than \$6.9 billion has been invested by the Illinois Tollway since the *Move Illinois* Program began in 2012, with nearly \$2 billion of that total committed to small, diverse and veteran-owned firms. In addition, the capital program has created or sustained an estimated 70,570 total jobs as of June 2019.

The contracts approved today include 14 subconsultants and 19 subcontractors that are certified as disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms and two subconsultants, as well as one subcontractor that are certified veteran-owned firms. Commitments for D/M/WBE participation range from 20 percent to 40 percent per contract and commitments for veteran participation range from two to five percent per contract.

Construction contracts awarded include:

- A \$77.3 million contract to Walsh Construction Company II, Chicago, IL, for reconstruction and improvements of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge over the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Professional engineering services contract awards include:

- A \$13.8 million contract to Wight & Company, Darien, IL, for construction management services on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange Project.
- An \$830,073 contract to Patrick Engineering Inc., Lisle, IL, for construction management services for Windsor Road Bridge reconstruction on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88).

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 score 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 and professional engineering services contracts through the Construction Contract Tracker on the Tollway's website at www.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 seven 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 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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