FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY SEEKS VENDORS TO ADMINSTER AND MANAGE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SMALL, DIVERSE FIRMS AND VETERAN FIRMS
Program will aid businesses seeking construction and professional services contracts

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to prospective vendors to administer and provide direct services to educate, train and prepare firms to compete and bid on Tollway contracts as part of the Illinois Tollway's Technical Assistance Program.

The Illinois Tollway Technical Assistance Program is designed to prepare all transportation-related firms including diverse, small and veteran-owned businesses to participate on highway and vertical construction contracts, including the Tollway's 15-year, $14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.*

"Despite the challenges we are facing as a nation, our agency is continuing our important work to deliver the *Move Illinois* capital program," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "A critical goal within this is to increase the involvement of talented minority- and women-owned businesses, delivering the skills they need to compete for work. As we tackle our challenges, we're not going to lose sight of that goal."

To strengthen and expand the program, the Tollway is seeking proposals from organizations, including not-for-profit, advocacy, consulting or community-based groups, that have experience in administering and managing business technical assistance and development programs to educate, train and prepare developing and experienced firms.

The Tollway provides technical assistance services to the 12 counties across northern Illinois served by the Illinois Tollway, but organizations responding to the RFP are not required to submit bids to provide services across the entire region.

The selected organization will assist firms that have not previously worked on Tollway projects, as well as offer guidance to businesses that have previously participated on Tollway contracts and want to expand their businesses or step up and participate as prime contractors or consultants.

The organization selected will provide customized business development assistance to help participating firms build financial understanding and implement business practices needed to succeed in the transportation and vertical construction industries. These services include:
- Bidding, field management services, obtaining bonding and financing, strategic planning for highway and vertical construction
- Statement of Interest proposal development for professional engineering services
- Assistance with Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Capital Development Board prequalification applications
- Education, guidance and feedback on general business operations and strategic planning

The initial term of the contract is for three years, with the Tollway having the option for two, one-year renewals.

The RFP includes a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) utilization goal of 30 percent and a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)/Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) utilization goal of 3 percent. The vendor selected by the Tollway also must directly perform at least 35 percent of the services identified in the RFP solicitation.

RFP written responses are due to the Illinois Tollway on April 10, by 10:30 a.m. For more information and to download the RFP, please visit the Doing Business section on the Tollway's website www.illinoistollway.com and go to Goods and Services and click on the Bids page.

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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