



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER NAMED WTS GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER 2020 HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD MAN OF THE YEAR**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Illinois Tollway Chief Planning Officer Rocco Zuccherro is the 2020 recipient of the Honorable Ray LaHood Man of the Year Award by the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter recognizing his outstanding contribution to the transportation industry and advancement of women and minorities.

“Rocco Zuccherro has built a team of strong women in his department and is a well-known supporter of advancing the careers of women in transportation,” said WTS International Chair Maggie Walsh. “He has played an integral role in shaping transportation throughout the region with his work at the Illinois Tollway and is a deserving recipient of the Ray LaHood Award.”

The annual WTS Man of the Year Award recognizes a transportation leader who leads by example, seeking out opportunities to advance and advocate for women in his own organization and ensures that women are able to compete for key positions of authority within that organization.

“This award is well-deserved, as Rocco is widely respected in the transportation industry for his professionalism, expertise and dedication to setting high standards,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “His commitment to the department he has built and the projects that he has led are evident in the Illinois Tollway’s success.”

Through the Man of the Year Award, WTS Greater Chicago recognizes Zuccherro as a steadfast advocate for supporting women in leadership roles at the Illinois Tollway. WTS also applauded his role as a consummate team builder, serving as a mentor to staff and providing them the tools, support and encouragement needed to succeed in their jobs and overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

As Chief Planning Officer, Zuccherro is responsible for the Tollway’s capital program and long-range planning efforts. He oversees a department charged with strategic programming and planning, intergovernmental agreements, environmental resource management and planning, landscaping and aesthetics, geographic information systems, legislation and policy, community relations and property management.

Since joining the Illinois Tollway in 2000 as a senior environmental planner responsible for the environmental impact statement for the south extension of the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) Zuccherro has led environmental planning and permitting for the Congestion-Relief Program, including the systemwide conversion of mainline toll plazas to open road tolling and roadway rebuilding and widening projects including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), South Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-80) and North Tri-State Tollway (I-94).

After his promotion to deputy chief of planning in 2006, he has continued building partnerships helping local communities stimulate economic development by creating opportunities to improve local access to the Tollway system and has been instrumental in leading the planning and delivery of the Illinois Tollway’s *Move Illinois* Capital Program.

**About *Move Illinois***

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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 eight years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor and 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 Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

**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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