



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 21, 2024**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AWARDS MORE THAN \$43.2 MILLION IN CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING SERVICES IN NOVEMBER**

*Contracts include runway lighting construction to accommodate the new I-490 Tollway*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today approved three construction and professional engineering services contracts totaling more than \$43.2 million at its November Board meeting, including the final contract needed to complete airport runway lighting relocation for the new I-490 Tollway.

“As part of I-490 Tollway construction, the Tollway is relocating approach lighting for four runways at O’Hare International Airport,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “Our engineers’ efforts in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration to deliver the contracts needed to complete this work have been critical to delivering the new I-490 Tollway Project.”

The new I-490 Tollway will run near the edge of O’Hare Airport and travel directly through approach lighting systems for four runways that include more than a dozen approach that lights flash sequentially to direct jets during the landing process. Building the narrow steel bridges will allow the Tollway to raise several of the approach lights for each runway above the I-490 right-of-way so the new road can be built underneath.

More than \$794.1 million in contracts has been approved by the Tollway Board in 2024, as part of the 13th year of the Tollway’s 16-year, \$15 billion *Move Illinois* capital program. The Tollway’s capital program calls for investing \$1.4 billion in 2024.

The November contracts approved today include 22 certified disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned business enterprise (D/M/WBE) firms, as well as two certified veteran-owned firms. Commitments for D/M/WBE participation range from 27.06 percent to 92 percent per contract and commitments for veteran participation range from 2.44 percent to 4 percent per contract.

Overall, nearly \$11.6 billion has been invested by the Tollway since the program began in 2012, with more than \$3 billion of that total committed to small, diverse and veteran-owned firms. In addition, the capital program has created or sustained an estimated 137,210 total jobs as of October 2024.

November construction contracts awarded include:

- A \$38.6 million contract to Plote Construction Inc., Hoffman Estates, IL, for runway 10R approach lighting with sequence flashing (ALSF) lighting system relocation, earthwork and bridge construction for the new I-490 Tollway between York Road and Taft Avenue.
- A \$975,238 contract to Areatha Construction Co. Inc., Streamwood, IL, for bridge repairs on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Mile Long Bridge.

November professional engineering services contracts awarded include:

- A \$3.7 million contract to J.A. Watts Inc., Chicago, IL, for construction management services for toll plaza improvements on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 159th Street and Golf Road.

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 based on demonstrated competence and professional qualifications. Construction contracts for Illinois Tollway projects are competitively bid under the rules of the Illinois Procurement Code.

All contracts are presented to the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors for review and approval. The Illinois Tollway broadcasts all public meetings on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com). This includes all board meetings and public bid openings. Also provided is detailed information about current Tollway construction and professional engineering services contracts in the Construction Contract Tracker.

### **About Move Illinois**

The Illinois Tollway's 16-year, \$15 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 165,220 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first 12 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).

### **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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