



## Record of Meeting | December 18, 2025

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's ("Tollway") Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, December 18, 2025, in the Boardroom of Tollway headquarters in Downers Grove, Illinois. The meeting was held pursuant to the By-Laws of the Tollway upon call and notice of the meeting executed by Chairman Arnaldo Rivera and posted in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1, *et seq.*

[*Bolded entries indicate issues which may require follow-up to present or report to the Board.*]

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Given Director Connolly's advance notice to the Board Secretary of his inability to attend due to business conflicts and given that a quorum of the committee was physically present, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and Tollway By-laws, Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to allow Director Connolly's participation by audio conference. Director Wright made such a motion, seconded by Director Mehta. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Rivera called the meeting to order at approximately 9:50 a.m. He then asked the Board Secretary to call the roll, those Directors present and absent being as follows:

Board Members Present:
Director James Connolly [ <i>by telephone</i> ]
Director Manish Mehta
Director Melissa Neddermeyer
Director Scott Paddock
Director Gary Perinar
Chairman Arnaldo Rivera
Director Jim Sweeney
Director Mark Wright

Board Members Not Present:
Governor JB Pritzker [ <i>ex officio</i> ]
Secretary Gia Biagi [ <i>ex officio</i> ]
Director Jacqueline Gomez

The Board Secretary declared a quorum present.

## Safety Message



Deputy Chief of Traffic and Incident Management Steve Mednis delivered a safety message on secondary crashes and the importance of smart decision-making at crash scenes. He explained that secondary crashes frequently occur during inclement weather due to poor visibility, cold temperatures, slick pavement, and decisions made under stress. Mr. Mednis emphasized the following key points:

- If you are involved in a crash and your vehicle is operable and in a safe position, remain inside the vehicle with your seat belt fastened, activate your hazard lights, and call \*999 for Illinois Tollway roadway assistance.
- Even when damaged, vehicles are designed to absorb impact and provide visibility, lighting, and protection that a person on foot does not have.
- If you must exit the vehicle due to fire, smoke, or another immediate hazard, do so carefully and defensively:
  - Move as far away from traffic as possible.
  - Stand behind a guardrail, if possible.
  - Remain constantly aware of oncoming vehicles.
  - Never stand in a travel lane or between vehicles.

## Public Comment

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Chairman Rivera opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Steve Bahnsen offered comments in support of the Tollway's new fly-under ramp that connects northbound I-294 to westbound I-290 and greatly improves traffic movement. Mr. Bahnsen also thanked the Tollway for improved signage in Aurora on northbound Farnsworth Avenue. Chairman Rivera thanked the speaker for his comments.

## Chairman's Items

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*Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held November 20, 2025.*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair's Item 1**, the minutes of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held November 20, 2025. Director Wright made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

*Item 2: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held November 20, 2025.*



Chairman Rivera stated that without objection, action on Chair's Item 2 will be deferred until after consideration in the Executive Session.

*Item 3: Approval of the 2026 Schedule of Tollway Committee and Board Meetings.*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair's Item 3**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

*Item 4: Approval of the 2026 Schedule of Tollway Holidays.*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair's Item 4**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

*Item 5: Committee Reports*

Chairman Rivera dispensed with committee reports, noting that Directors were present for the committee meetings.

Having no further items, Chairman Rivera turned the floor over to Executive Director Cassandra Rouse.

### **Executive Director's Items**

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Executive Director Rouse congratulated Governor Pritzker and House and Senate leadership on the enactment of a new transit bill that will strengthen funding for Illinois' regional transportation network.

She noted that, in addition to \$1.5 billion in transit funding, the bill supports the Illinois Tollway's efforts to advance its next capital program, which is designed to fund maintenance, operations, and system improvements to provide an enhanced road network across Northern Illinois.

Executive Director Rouse stated that the Illinois Tollway has not raised passenger vehicle rates for more than a decade and that any adjustments approved by the Tollway Board are intended to keep pace with rising costs and fund necessary upgrades and maintenance. She emphasized that 100% of toll revenue will continue to be dedicated to Tollway maintenance, operations, and capital improvements, supporting a safer and more reliable road network across Northern Illinois.

She further noted that the next capital program and any changes to toll rates for both passenger and commercial vehicles will be reviewed and are subject to approval by the Tollway Board. She



stated that the 2026 Budget does not include funding for the next capital program or a passenger vehicle toll rate increase and that there will be a robust public discussion of the funding plan and the schedule for implementing any new toll rates for passenger and commercial vehicles.

Executive Director Rouse then introduced a video highlighting completion of the North Avenue interchange project in partnership with Cook County, which creates new access from the southbound Tri-State to North Avenue and Lake Street. She stated that the new ramp at County Line Road, constructed by the Tollway, together with local road improvements completed by Cook County, will reduce congestion, improve mobility, and support local economic development.

Executive Director Rouse urged drivers to slow down and follow posted speed limits during holiday travel, noting that the Tollway is suspending temporary maintenance and lane closures systemwide over Christmas and again during the New Year's holiday. She added that Tollway H.E.L.P. trucks will be on patrol so customers can receive roadside assistance quickly.

Finally, Executive Director Rouse reported that approximately 900 toys were collected for Toys for Tots and thanked Team Tollway for its generosity and community outreach. She also noted that I-PASS On Demand and Tollway Tykes staff have been attending holiday events in Park Forest, County Club Hills, and at the Kohls Children's Museum in Lake County.

Executive Director Rouse, having no further items to report, returned the floor to Chairman Rivera.

## Items for Consideration

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### Finance

#### Item 1: Approval of the FY2026 Final Budget.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Finance Item 1**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

### Information Technology

Item 1: Award of Contract 25-1074 to CDW Government LLC for the purchase of Adobe Licensing, Maintenance, and Support in an amount not to exceed \$266,632.36 (Order Against DoIT Master Contract).

Item 2: Award of Contract 25-1078 to Presidio Networked Solutions LLC for the purchase of Cisco SmartNet Maintenance and Support in an amount not to exceed \$5,574,959.91 (Order Against DoIT Master Contract).



Chairman Rivera stated that Director Mehta has indicated in advance his wish to recuse himself from the decision on Information Technology Item 1. Chairman Rivera then entertained a motion to approve **Information Technology Item 1**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. Chairman Rivera asked that the roll be called on the motion, the vote of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Director Wright, Director Neddermeyer, Director Connolly, Director Perinar, Director Paddock, Director Sweeney, Chairman Rivera (7)

Nays: (0)

Recusals: Director Mehta (1)

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Information Technology Item 2**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

### **Facilities & Fleet Operations**

*Item 1: Award of Contract 25-0084 to J. P. Simons & Co. for the purchase of Carbon Monoxide Detectors in an amount not to exceed \$248,280.00 for an initial three-year term and a possible two-year renewal term in an amount not to exceed \$132,787.00 (Tollway Invitation for Bid – Small Business Set-Aside).*

*Item 2: Award of Contract 24-0065R to Silk Screen Express, Inc. for the purchase of Various Work Uniforms, Outerwear, Accessories, and Polo Shirts in an amount not to exceed \$399,517.50 for an initial two-year term and a possible two-year renewal term in an amount not to exceed \$419,708.00 (Tollway Invitation for Bid).*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Facilities & Fleet Operations Item 1**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Facilities & Fleet Operations Item 2**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

### **Engineering**

*Item 1: Change Order / Extra Work Order on I-21-4732 to Walsh Construction Company II, LLC for Railroad Bridge Construction Union Pacific Railroad and Earthwork on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Tollway (I-490) Franklin Avenue to South of Irving Park Road (IL-19) and Jane*



*Addams Memorial Tollway (I 90) between Mile Post 62.00 and Mile Post 62.25 (Barrington Road) in the amount of \$6,750,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$244,844,441.11 to \$251,594,441.11.*

*Item 2: Acceptance of Proposal from AECOM Technical Services, Inc. on Contract I-25-2001 for Design Services for Bridge Reconstruction Design on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from Mile Post 15.6 (107th Street) to Mile Post 16.8 (Illinois Route 43 /Harlem Avenue) in an amount not to exceed \$22,779,840.95.*

*Item 3: Continuation of services on Contract RR-21-9982 with WSP USA, Inc. for Consulting Engineer Services, Systemwide in the amount of \$57,400,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$117,755,968.00 to \$175,155,968.00.*

*Item 4: Continuation of Services on Contract RR-20-9981 with CDM Smith Inc. for Traffic Engineer Services, Systemwide in the amount of \$12,750,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$27,070,000.00 to \$39,820,000.00.*

*Item 5: Amendment to Contract 17-0002 with Adesta LLC for the purchase of Fiber Optic Maintenance and Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.00 (Tollway Request for Proposal).*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to consolidate for consideration and action **Engineering Items 1-5**. Director Wright made a motion to consolidate these items, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

The motion to consolidate these items having carried, Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Engineering Items 1-5**. Director Wright made a motion to approve these items, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

## Legal

*Item 1: Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 135 for Telecommunicators. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.*

*Item 2: Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 336 for Call-Takers. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.*

Chairman Rivera stated that action on Legal Items 1 and 2 will be deferred until after consideration in the Executive Session.

## Internal Audit



Item 1: Approval of the Two-Year Audit Plan for 2026-2027.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Internal Audit Item 1**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

**Executive Session**

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Chairman Rivera called for a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to the exceptions provided in Sections 2(c)(2), (11) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), (11) and (21), to consider Tollway matters related to collective bargaining, pending or potential litigation and the minutes of closed meetings. Director Wright made a motion, pursuant to the sections specified, to enter Executive Session, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

At approximately 10:31 a.m., the Board entered the Executive Session.

**Return from Executive Session and Action**

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At approximately 10:51 a.m., the Board re-entered the public session of the meeting.

Chair's Item 2: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held November 20, 2025.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair's Item 2**. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

Legal Item 1: Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 135 for Telecommunicators. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.

Legal Item 2: Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police Chapter 336 for Call-Takers. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Legal Item 1**, as discussed in the Executive Session. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.



Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Legal Item 2**, as discussed in the Executive Session. Director Wright made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to adjourn. Director Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Neddermeyer. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:54 a.m.

Minutes taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

Christi Regnery  
Board Secretary  
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority