



## Record of Meeting | January 21, 2026

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's ("Tollway") Board of Directors met in regular session on Wednesday, January 21 2026, 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

Chairman Rivera called the meeting to order at approximately 9:56 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
Director Jacqueline Gomez
Director Melissa Neddermeyer
Director Scott Paddock
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 Manish Mehta

The Board Secretary declared a quorum present.

## Safety Message

Deputy Chief of Administration Darius Brown stated that the start of the new year is a natural time to reaffirm that employee wellness is not only a personal goal, but also a workplace priority and a safety issue. He reviewed the Tollway's Employee Assistance Program, a confidential, no-cost resource available to employees and their families that provides support for a range of needs, including mental health counseling, stress management, financial concerns, family challenges, and substance use.

Mr. Brown emphasized the importance of speaking openly about wellness, encouraging use of available resources, and normalizing seeking help to foster a supportive culture. He also



encouraged employees to check in with themselves and colleagues, noting that safety includes both physical and mental well-being, and to take advantage of available benefits such as “At Your Desk” webinars and other wellness offerings.

## Public Comment

---

Chairman Rivera opened the floor for public comment. Steve Bahnsen addressed the Board. Mr. Bahnsen offered comments on signage on westbound I-88, noting that the exit sign for IL 251 and Interstate 39 is incorrectly arranged. He stated that under FHWA guidelines, the nearest exit should appear at the top of the sign and requested that the sign be corrected to protect the integrity of the system. Mr. Bahnsen also thanked the Tollway for recent signage improvements at Grand Avenue near Great America.

Chairman Rivera thanked the speaker for his comments.

## Chairman’s Items

---

*Item 1: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held December 18, 2025.*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair’s Item 1**, the minutes of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held December 18, 2025. Director Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

*Item 2: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held December 18, 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 Executive Session Minutes for Public Release.*

Chairman Rivera stated that without objection, action on Chair’s Item 3 will be deferred until after consideration in the Executive Session.

*Item 4: 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

---

Executive Director Rouse introduced a 2025 recap video highlighting the Tollway's focus on safety, dependable service, strong community connections, and long-term regional growth. She recognized the hard work and dedication of Tollway employees and noted that the Agency's momentum is guided by its new \*Bold Steps Together\* strategic plan, which reinforces these priorities.

Upon conclusion of the video, Executive Director Rouse returned the floor to Chairman Rivera.

## Items for Consideration

---

### Facilities & Fleet Operations

*Item 1: Award of Contract 25-1062 to Patson, Inc. (d.b.a. TransChicago Truck Group) for the purchase of Single-Axle Snowplow Trucks in an amount not to exceed \$7,202,594.75 (Order Against CMS Master Contract).*

*Item 2: Award of Contract 25-1095 to Rush Truck Centers of Illinois, Inc. (d.b.a. Rush Truck Center, Springfield) for the purchase of Truck and Equipment Repair Services in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 (Order Against CMS Master Contract).*

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

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

### Engineering

*Item 1: Award of Contract I-25-4766 to OHLA Central, Inc./Judlau Contracting, Inc. (JV) for Roadway Construction on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (I-490) between Mile Post 3.3 (Irving Park Road) to Mile Post 4.3 (Devon Avenue) in the amount of \$38,218,135.25. [Recusal: Director Wright]*



*Item 2: Award of Contract I-25-2027 to Natural Creations Landscaping, Inc. for Landscape Planting Improvements on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from Mile Post 23.1 (I-55) to Mile Post 29.5 (Cermak Road) in the amount of \$2,999,988.50.*

*Item 3: Change Order / Extra Work Order on I-21-4746 to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC for Roadway Construction on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Tollway (I-490) at Mile Post 5.75 (Touhy Avenue) in the amount of \$770,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$10,518,648.27 to \$11,288,648.27.*

*Item 4: Acceptance of Proposal from Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc. on Contract I-19-4469 for Supplemental Design Services for Systemwide Bridge Reconstruction on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) at Mile Post 19.8 (Bypass U.S. 20) in the amount of \$892,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$2,998,226.27 to \$3,890,226.27.*

*Item 5: Acceptance of Proposal from HR Green, Inc. on Contract I-19-4478 for Supplemental Construction Management Services for Roadway Reconstruction and Widening on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Mile Post 32 (St. Charles Road) and Mile Post 33 (North Avenue/Lake Street) in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$21,000,000.00 to \$22,000,000.00.*

Chairman Rivera stated that action on Engineering Item 1 would take place after consideration in the Executive Session.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to consolidate for consideration and action **Engineering Items 2-5**. Director Connolly made a motion to consolidate these items, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

The motion to consolidate these items having carried, Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Engineering Items 2-5**. Director Connolly made a motion to approve these items, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

## Legal

*Item 1: Authorization to Enter into a Settlement Agreement with F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates LLC. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.*

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

## Administration



*Item 1: Award of Contract 25-0041R to Perspectives, Ltd. for the purchase of Employee Assistance Program Services in an amount not to exceed \$233,820.00 for an initial three-year term and a possible two-year renewal term in an amount not to exceed \$157,848.00 (Tollway Invitation for Bid).*

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Administration Item 1**. Director Connolly made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

### **Executive Session**

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

At approximately 10:16 a.m., the Board entered the Executive Session.

### **Return from Executive Session and Action**

At approximately 11:05 a.m., the Board re-entered the public session of the meeting.

*Engineering Item 1: Award of Contract I-25-4766 to OHLA Central, Inc./Judlau Contracting, Inc. (JV) for Roadway Construction on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (I-490) between Mile Post 3.3 (Irving Park Road) to Mile Post 4.3 (Devon Avenue) in the amount of \$38,218,135.25. [Recusal: Director Wright]*

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

Yeas: Director Connolly, Director Gomez, Director Neddermeyer, Director Paddock, Director Sweeney, Chairman Rivera (6)

Nays: (0)

Recusals: Director Wright (1)

The motion PASSED.



*Chair's Item 2: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held December 18, 2025.*

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

*Chair's Item 3: Approval of the Executive Session Minutes for Public Release.*

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

*Legal Item 1: Authorization to Enter into a Settlement Agreement with F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates LLC. 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 Connolly made a motion to approve this item, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

**Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:07 a.m.

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

Christi Regnery  
Board Secretary  
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority