



Record of Meeting | April 16, 2026

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority’s (“Tollway”) Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, April 16, 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 10:20 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

Dispatch Manager Capers Funnye stated that this week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, during which the Tollway recognizes the professionals who serve as the agency’s “first” first responders. He noted that dispatchers and call takers handle more than 100,000 incidents each year, providing calm, clarity and critical support to motorists in need.

Mr. Funnye thanked the Tollway’s telecommunicators for their professionalism, compassion and commitment to keeping the Tollway system and its patrons safe 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.



Executive Director's Items (Part 1)

As part of National Telecommunicators Week, Executive Director Rouse recognized Tasandra "T.J." Bell as the Tollway's 2026 Telecommunicator of the Year. Ms. Rouse commended T.J.'s professionalism, patience and lasting impact as a trainer for new telecommunicators, as well as her team-first approach.

Executive Director Rouse also announced the winners of this year's "Go the Extra Mile for Safety" award, with the Marengo M-6 and Dixon M-12 maintenance sites earning top honors for their strong safety performance. She noted that Tollway leadership will participate in the M-6 celebration tomorrow, and M-12 will be recognized this fall.

Ms. Rouse further noted that employees are preparing for National Work Zone Awareness Week by wearing orange and gathering for a group photo to promote this year's theme, "Safe Actions Save Lives." The photo will be used on agency social media to raise work zone awareness.

Executive Director Rouse stated that Earth Day will be marked on April 22 with a visit from the Illinois Natural History Survey's Traveling Science Center, offering the public and employees an opportunity to learn more about Tollway and IDOT environmental initiatives.

Finally, Ms. Rouse noted that this month's engineering agenda includes more than \$114 million in new construction and professional services contracts.

Executive Director Rouse returned the floor to Chairman Rivera.

Public Comment

Chairman Rivera opened the floor for public comment. Steve Bahnsen addressed the Board. Mr. Bahnsen thanked Tollway staff for their prompt response to his inquiry regarding junction signage at IL Route 72 and Higgins Road near the eastbound and westbound I-90 ramps.

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 March 19, 2026.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Chair's Item 1**, the minutes of the Regular Board of Directors meeting held March 19, 2026. 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 March 19, 2026.

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

Item 3: 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 (Part 2)

Executive Director Rouse introduced Inspector General T.J. Hengesbach to present the Semi-Annual Summary Activity Report. [See attached report.](#)

Upon conclusion of the presentation and discussion, Executive Director Rouse returned the floor to Chairman Rivera.

[Director Sweeney temporarily departed the meeting at this time.]

Items for Consideration

Finance

Item 1: Award of Contract 24-0131 to CorVel Enterprise Claims, Inc. for the purchase of Workers' Compensation Third-Party Claims Administration and Related Services for an estimated \$300,630.00 for a five-year term (Tollway Request for Proposal).

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

Information Technology

Item 1: Amendment to Contract 23-0037 with Unisys Corporation for the purchase of Unisys System Maintenance and Support in an amount not to exceed \$49,734.00 (Tollway Sole Economically Feasible Source).



Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to approve **Information Technology Item 1**. 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-25-2033 to Plote Construction, Inc. for Roadway Asphalt Overlay and Pavement Marking on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from Mile Post 23.0 (Flagg Creek) to Mile Post 29.5 (Cermak Road) in the amount of \$28,691,000.66.

Item 2: Award of Contract I-25-2032 to OHLA Central Inc. for Roadway and Ramp Reconstruction and Widening on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) from Mile Post 32.4 (St. Charles Road) to Mile Post 33.6 (North Avenue) in the amount of \$15,374,261.77. [Recusal: Director Wright]

Item 3: Award of Contract I-25-4768 to Foundation Mechanics, LLC for Grading and Drainage Improvements on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (I-490) from Mile Post 3.0 (Beeline Drive) to Mile Post 4.0 (Supreme Drive) in the amount of \$11,138,000.00.

Item 4: Award of Contract I-25-6003 to Veterans Vac Services, LLC for Oasis Parking Lot Demolition on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at Mile Post 25.0 (Hinsdale Oasis) and Mile Post 37.9 (O'Hare Oasis) in the amount of \$1,039,031.76.

Item 5: Award of Contract RR-24-4984 to Rausch Infrastructure, LLC for Bridge Rehabilitation on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) from Mile Post 76.2 (IL Route 251) to Mile Post 113.4 (IL Route 56) in the amount of \$2,479,864.00.

Item 6: Award of Contract RR-25-4999 to Lorig Construction Company for Bridge Rehabilitation on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-94) from Mile Post 42.1 (Touhy Avenue) to Mile Post 27.8 (Waukegan Road) in the amount of \$2,749,990.75.

Item 7: Award of Contract RR-25-6002 to K-Five Construction Corporation for Pavement Repairs Systemwide in the amount of \$10,097,204.81.

Item 8: Award of Contract RR-25-2036 to F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen & Associates, LLC for Pavement Rehabilitation on the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) from Mile Post 0.0 (I-80) to Mile Post 12.3 (I-55) in the amount of \$12,236,409.85.

Item 9: Award of Contract RR-25-9311 to RoadSafe Traffic Systems, Inc. for Pavement Marking Improvements Systemwide in the amount of \$1,124,374.43.

Item 10: 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) from Mile Post 62.00 to Mile Post 62.25 (Barrington Road) in the amount of \$7,700,000.00, increasing the upper limit of compensation from \$260,527,208.07 to \$268,227,208.07.

Item 11: Acceptance of Proposal from Gasperec Elberts Consulting, LLC on Contract I-25-2028 for Design Services for Interchange Construction Design on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and Tri-State Tollway (I-294) EW Connector Ramps at York Road in an amount not to exceed \$1,771,767.00.

Item 12: Acceptance of Proposal from Atlas Technical Consultants LLC on Contract RR-25-9309 for Design Services for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Deployment and System Management Systemwide in an amount not to exceed \$7,000,000.00. [Recusal: Director Mehta]

Item 13: Acceptance of Proposal from Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. on Contract I-25-4770 for Construction Management Services for Roadway and Bridge Construction Management on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (I-490) between I-294 Mile Post 0.9 (Taft Avenue) and I-90 Mile Post 3.1 (Foster Avenue) in an amount not to exceed \$20,400,000.00.

Item 14: Award of Contract 25-0138 to RoadSafe Traffic Systems, Inc. for the purchase of Guardrails and Cable Parts in an amount not to exceed \$456,405.00 (Tollway Invitation for Bid).

Item 15: Land Acquisition – Declaration of T-5-359.EX and T-5-359.1.EX as excess property and approval of conveyance located in Hinsdale, IL.

Item 16: Land Acquisition – Declaration of Parcels adjacent to I-294 as excess property and approval of conveyance located in Hinsdale, IL.

Item 17: Land Acquisition – Declaration of NW-7B-12-901.2EX and a portion of N-7B-45.3EX as Excess Property and approval of conveyance located in Des Plaines, IL.

Chairman Rivera entertained a motion to consolidate for consideration and action **Engineering Items 1 and 3 thru 17**. 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 1 and 3 thru 17**. Director Connolly made a motion to approve these items, seconded by Director Gomez. The motion PASSED unanimously by voice vote.

[Director Sweeney returned to the meeting at this time.]



Chairman Rivera stated that Director Wright has indicated in advance his wish to recuse himself from the decision on Engineering Item 2. He then entertained a motion to approve **Engineering Item 2**. 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.

Legal

Item 1: Approval of a Settlement Agreement and General Release relating to Tollway Contracts I-22-4867 and I-18-4431. Cost to the Tollway: As discussed in Executive Session.

Without objection, Chairman Rivera deferred action on Legal Item 1 until after consideration in the Executive Session of the full Board meeting.

Executive Session

Chairman Rivera called for a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to the exceptions provided in Section 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 probable 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 10:52 a.m., the Board entered the Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session and Action

At approximately 11:06 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 March 19, 2026.



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.

Legal Item 1: Approval of a Settlement Agreement and General Release relating to Tollway Contracts I-22-4867 and I-18-4431. 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



Office of the Inspector General Summary Activity Report Overview

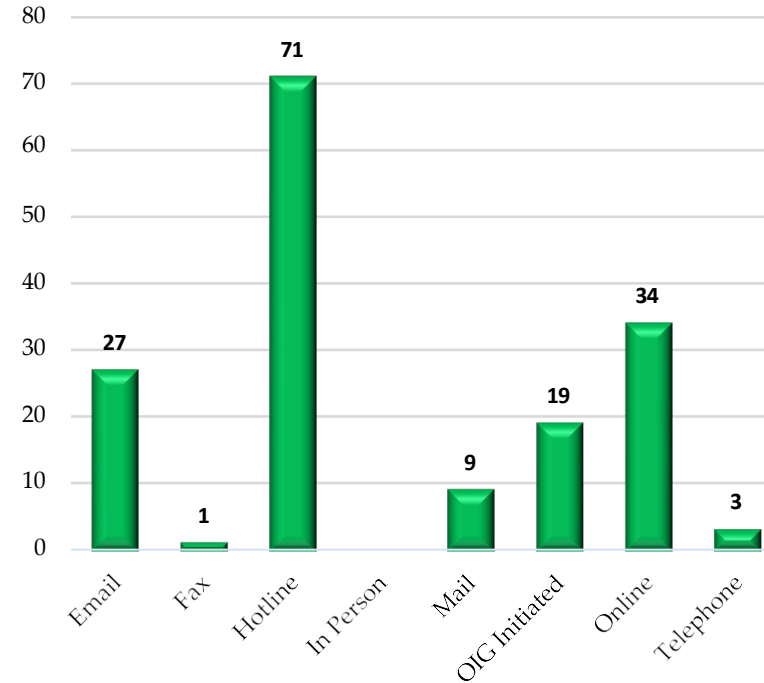
September 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Theodor J. Hengesbach

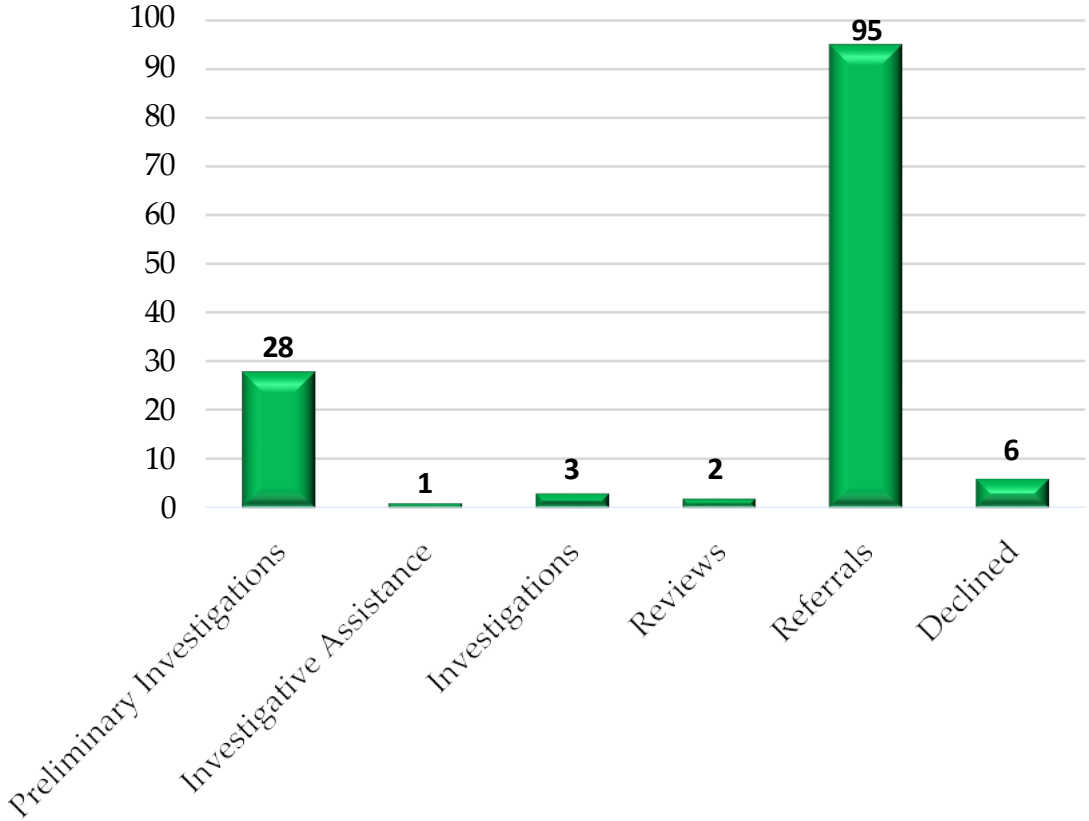
METHODS OF REPORTING

Submissions

- 71 hotline
- 34 online
- 27 email
- 19 OIG initiated
- 9 mail
- 3 telephone
- 1 fax



MATTERS INITIATED, REFERRED AND DECLINED



Total Actions: 135

Preliminary Investigations

- 28 Opened
- 29 Closed

Referrals

- 69 to Customer Service
- 15 Law enforcement
- 11 Other Tollway Departments

VIOLATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY (IG 25-008)

Issue: Dispatcher shared sensitive information about roadway incidents on public social media site.

Finding: Employee was not authorized to share information they learned while working at the Tollway.

Recommendation: Discipline and improved guidance to employees.

Outcome: Written Reprimand. Tollway to update protocols.

COMPLIANCE AND COMMUNICATION

R-25-001

- 200 + employees missed deadline to disclose Outside Employment in 2024
- OIG recommended improvements for 2025
- 2025 full compliance

R-25-003

- Employee's comments violated sexual harassment policy
- Did not complete all required extra training within timeframe
- OIG recommended improved coordination between departments

HIRING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

RF-25-201

- Equipment Operator Laborer was hired in 2021
 - 3-year gap in employment
 - Resignation from police force after misconduct finding
- Tollway should consider gathering more information from candidates

R-23-002 - Update

- Inconsistent process for rehiring retired employees
- New process effective 2026

WORKPLACE SAFETY (RF-25-214)

Issue: Tollway employees alleged to be misusing Tollway equipment and conducting unauthorized work at a “dump site”

AVL records showed employees regularly at the site and photographs showed activity and debris at the site

Tollway found the site was not properly managed by supervisors

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRENDS (RF-26-0031)

OIG tracked categories of customer concerns about experiences with customer service call takers

January to June 2025 – 122 customer complaints, most common

- Most common complaints about calls not being answered and calls placed on hold for long periods

July to December 2025 – 47 customer complaints

- Significant decrease in complaints about unanswered calls and excessive hold times

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Outreach/Collaboration

- Orientation – New employees and Board members
- Contracting with Government

Internal

- Filled investigator vacancy
- Case Management Database implemented December 2025
- Professional training



THANK YOU