



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY APPROVES BALANCED 2026 BUDGET

*New spending plan allocates more than \$1.79 billion in annual revenue
and supports \$1.26 billion in 2026 capital investments*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors has approved a balanced 2026 Budget with \$1.79 billion in revenue allocated to fund maintenance and operations, debt service transfers and capital investments for the 294-mile system.

In addition, the 2026 Budget will allow the Tollway to commit \$1.26 billion for capital spending, including funding for the agency's \$15 billion *Move Illinois* capital program and the \$2 billion Bridging the Future capital plan.

"The Tollway has worked to build a budget for 2026 that reflects both responsible stewardship and continued support for regional needs," said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Arnie Rivera. "Today, we approved this balanced 2026 budget that delivers on this directive and allows us to continue to deliver exceptional service to our customers."

A total of \$1.79 billion in revenue is projected to fund the Tollway's 2026 Budget, an increase of 2.7 percent over 2025. This includes \$1.73 billion from tolls and evasion recovery, including an annual commercial truck toll rate increase initially approved by the Tollway Board in 2008. There is no increase planned in 2026 for passenger vehicles tolls, which have not increased since 2012.

More than \$1.31 billion for direct funding and debt service on capital investments is included as part of the 2026 Budget, as well as \$467.7 million for maintenance and operations needs for the year.

"Our 2026 budget allows us to continue to support the highest level of customer service and daily operations and also make capital investments that sustain jobs and strengthen the regional economy," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. "This is part of our long-view approach to transportation in Illinois that keeps our system reliable and future-ready."

Annual maintenance and operations spending in 2026 will provide for an Information Technology budget of \$98.1 million to modernize processes, \$67.4 million for the Roadway Maintenance budget and \$36 million budgeted for Security and Safety, including funding for a service agreement with the Illinois State Police. In addition, \$202.1 million is budgeted for Operations and Business Systems departments to provide customer services support and enhancements.

The Tollway's capital program calls for investing \$1.26 billion in 2026 with \$374 million budgeted for systemwide roadway and bridge repairs, along with funding for key projects including:

- \$328.9 million to continue design and reconstruction work for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

- \$427.4 million to continue planning and construction for the new I-490 Tollway and new the Illinois Route 390 Interchange, as well as providing direct access in and out of O'Hare International Airport as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project.

The Tollway also plans to issue up to \$1 billion in new bonds in 2026 to provide funding for capital program investments.

The 2026 Budget Book is posted on the Illinois Tollway website www.illinoistollway.com for public viewing.

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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