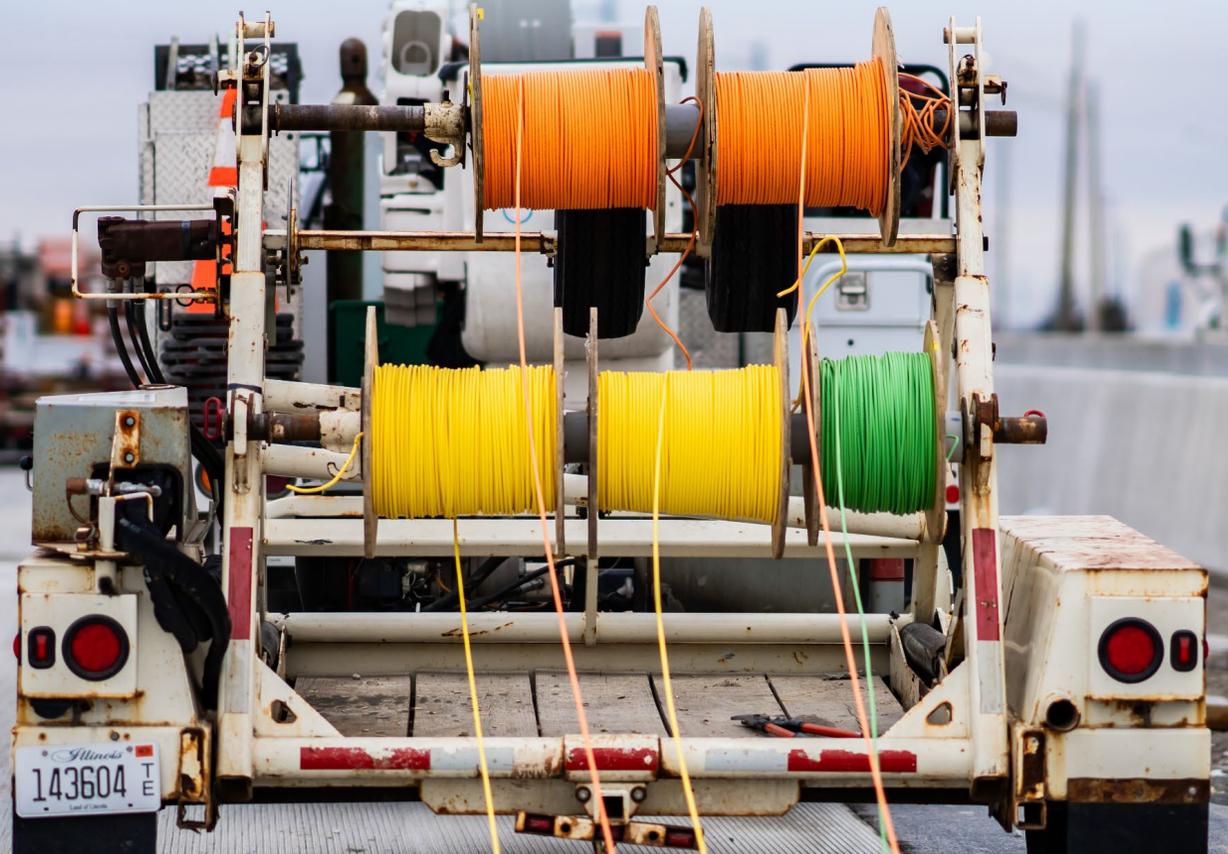




# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY FIBER OPTICS

Karyn Robles, *Chief of Planning* | March 19, 2026





# BACKBONE COMMUNICATIONS

## *Who owns what?*

### **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY**

- Owns all ducts within right-of-way
- Tollway backbone cables
- Executes lease agreements

### **FIBER-OPTIC CABLE OWNERS (VARIES)**

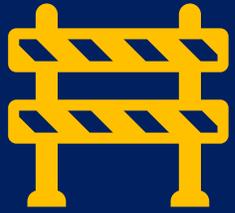
- Leased customer backbone cables
- IDOT fiber-optic cable

### **THIRD PARTY**

- Handles fiber requests and marketing

Total of **189** active agreements with **33** lessees

# NETWORK AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT



**Construction  
Support**



**Maintenance  
and Operations**



**Engineering  
Support**



**Marketing and  
Leasing**



# FIBER DEMAND

*What's fueling fiber demand today and beyond?*

# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL WITH FIBER

## *What's driving fiber demand?*

- Region size and Midwest geographic location
- Rising data center activity
- Technology, finance and healthcare industries



**INNOVATION**

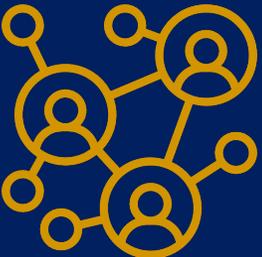
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**CONNECTION**

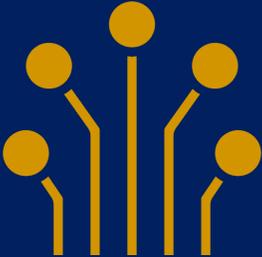


# **CURRENT** NETWORK STATUS

# EVALUATING THE SYSTEM



**Meeting Illinois  
Tollway and  
customer needs**



**Evaluating additional  
capacity and  
redundancy**



**Enabling regional  
economic  
development**



# SUMMARY

**Takeaway:** 48,000-mile fiber system

## GOAL

- Meet Tollway data communication needs
- Support regional economic development
- Leverage robust fiber network to meet needs of underserved areas along the Tollway

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Fiber expansion is ongoing under *Move Illinois*
- Design opportunities available in *Bridging the Future*
- Next long-term Capital Plan



# THANK YOU

