



## RESEARCH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RRFP) #26-03

### REVIEW OF CONCRETE PAVEMENT TRANSITION JOINT PERFORMANCE AND SOLUTIONS FOR OVERNIGHT REPAIRS

**POSTED DATE: 5/28/2026; CLOSING DATE: 6/26/2026**

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Funds:</b>	\$80,000
<b>Estimated Contract Term:</b>	18 months
<b>Projected Start Date:</b>	1/4/2027
<b>Deadline for Submitting Proposal:</b>	4:30:00 PM (local time) 6/26/2026
<b>Submit Proposal via Email to:</b>	<a href="mailto:research@getipass.com">research@getipass.com</a>

#### BACKGROUND

Jointed plain concrete pavement (JPCP) is used throughout the Tollway system. The transverse expansion joints in this pavement type occasionally exhibit spalling and cracking distresses where the JPCP transitions to different pavement types, such as continuously reinforced concrete pavement (CRCP), full-depth asphalt, composite pavement, or bridge structures. Historically, these expansion joints have utilized dowels, with or without a sleeper slab. More recently, the Tollway has eliminated the dowelled expansion joint in lieu of only a sleeper slab with an appropriately sized expansion joint. The dowelled expansion joints are difficult to replace during maintenance and rehabilitation projects because of the existing conditions and the limited lane closure durations during overnight repair operations. The Tollway has trialed stone matrix asphalt (SMA) patches at a few locations on the system. These patches have largely been successful, but further performance evaluation is necessary. In addition, expansion joint types, details, and overnight repair methods that have been used by other agencies should be explored and considered.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The proposed research will review the performance of these expansion joints on the Tollway system, consider joint types used by other agencies in this application, develop overnight repairs methods for legacy joints, and propose any changes to current practice.

## **RESEARCH TASKS AND REQUIRED DELIVERABLES**

Several tasks are envisioned for completing this research project, as described below:

- A. Literature review that focuses on established expansion joint construction details and repair methods.
- B. Conduct an agency survey. This requirement can be fulfilled by the literature review if sufficient insight is captured.
- C. Review the performance of these expansion joints on the Tollway system. This is anticipated to include review of publicly available sources (Google Maps, Nearmap, etc.), Tollway provided images, and any necessary site visits.
- D. Review the performance of SMA patches on the Tollway system and evaluate their long-term efficacy.
- E. Develop overnight repairs methods for legacy joints and propose any changes to current practice.

Deliverables that will be required throughout this project will include:

- Quarterly progress reports, in electronic format, containing a summary of effort performed during the quarter and expected progress for the following quarter including percent of remaining schedule and budget.
- Final report, in electronic format, summarizing the results and recommendations developed as a result of this research effort as contained in the Tasks A-E documents described above. A draft final report shall be submitted 45 days prior to the end date of the research contract. The Tollway will review and provide comments and feedback within 15 days of receipt of the draft final report. Then, the researcher shall have 30 days to address the comments and questions, make revisions, and resubmit the final report.
- An electronic copy (pdf) of all reports shall be submitted.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL**

The proposal shall be prepared in accordance with the guidelines presented in Appendix A. The contact name/email and due date are presented on the first page. All potential Principal Investigators (PIs) should read and understand the responsibilities of Illinois Tollway Principal Investigators, which are presented in Appendix B.

Technical questions regarding the research project or questions regarding the RFP procedures should be submitted to [research@getipass.com](mailto:research@getipass.com) by 2:00:00 p.m. (local time) on 6/11/2026. Technical questions that are received by 2:00:00 p.m. (local time) on 6/11/2026 will have the questions and answers posted on the Tollway's website at least 3 days before the proposal due date.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR REVIEWING PROPOSALS AND AWARDING ILLINOIS TOLLWAY FUNDS**

Please note that the following three conditions will be applied in reviewing all proposals received and in awarding Tollway funds:

- 1) The award of this project is contingent upon the availability of funds at the time of award.
- 2) Tollway research projects are entered into through an Intergovernmental Agreement. Therefore, the lead institution in a successful proposal is required to meet the definition of a "public agency" pursuant to Illinois' Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 Ill. Comp. Stat. 220) in order to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to complete the project. Prior to notification of a successful proposal, the Tollway may request the lead institution's W-9 form to verify compliance with this requirement.
- 3) The lead institution must perform at least 35% of the work (budgeted costs).

## **APPENDIX A: GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR THE ILLINOIS TOLLWAY**

Please use the following format for submitting a Tollway proposal for consideration. Please limit your total proposal to 5 pages in length (not including the Cover/Summary Page or optional Appendices), ensure file size is less than 5 MB, and use a font size no smaller than 10. We suggest Arial font with 1.5 spacing between lines.

### **1. Cover/Summary Page**

Use the cover page included in Appendix C.

### **2. Research Plan**

The research plan should describe in a specific and straightforward manner the proposed approach for solving the problem described in the problem statement. The research plan should be subdivided into the following sections:

#### **(a) Introduction, including Research Idea Statement**

Provide an introduction to the proposal and a concise overview of the research approach. Outline the objectives of the research project and explain the questions that will be answered by the research.

#### **(b) Research Approach/Work Plan**

Include the details of how the investigator will carry out the project and accomplish the project objectives. Itemize the tasks to be completed, explaining each in sufficient detail so the reviewers understand what will be done for each task and what will be produced or completed with each task.

#### **(c) Anticipated Research Results**

Specifically state the anticipated research results and deliverables.

#### **(d) Applicability of Results to Illinois Tollway Practice**

Describe how the anticipated research results can be used to improve Tollway practices.

### **3. Qualifications and Accomplishments of the Research Team**

Identify who will perform the research and provide a brief explanation of each researcher's qualifications to perform the research. Please provide examples of similar research that the proposed individuals have performed.

**4. Other Commitments of the Research Team**

Briefly outline the other commitments of the proposed principal and co-principal investigators to demonstrate that both will be able to fulfill the commitments of the proposal.

**5. Equipment and Facilities**

Describe the facilities and equipment available to undertake the research proposal.

**6. Time Requirements**

Describe the time that will be required to complete the research proposal, including final report preparation, Tollway editing, review of the report by the Technical Review Panel (TRP), and final review/publishing of the report. Include a timeline for each task.

**7. Itemized Budget**

Provide an itemized budget for each of the Phases of the project and for the entire project, including the cost of personnel, consultants, subcontracts, equipment, materials, travel, overhead/indirect costs and cost share (match). The Illinois Tollway believes that an overhead/indirect rate of 20% is reasonable and competitive. Justification shall be provided if an indirect cost rate in excess of 20% is used. Please itemize equipment and travel requests, especially any requested out-of- state travel or planned attendance at conferences.

**8. Cooperative Features (if appropriate)**

If assistance or cooperation is required from other sectors, public or private, to complete this proposed research, describe the plans for securing this assistance.

**9. Appendices (if appropriate)**

You may include such things as statements regarding previous work on the problem or related problems, abstracts of related projects, a bibliography or list of references, or materials describing the submitting organization.

**APPENDIX B:  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATORS**

1. Prepare and submit a project work plan and multi-year line-item budget, consistent with the Tollway RRF for the newly-approved research project.
2. Meet with the Technical Review Panel (TRP) and revise the project work plan and multi-year budget, as agreed with the TRP.
3. Assist the TRP chair in preparing an Implementation Planning Worksheet and work throughout the project to identify the expected benefits of the research, e.g., construction savings, operation and maintenance savings, increased lifecycle, safety, etc.
4. Carry out the project as agreed with the TRP, or notify the TRP if any problem develops regarding the project.
5. Provide online quarterly progress reports to the TRP chair for review and approval.
6. Attend TRP meetings to provide project updates and answer TRP members' questions about the project.
7. Provide the TRP a synopsis of the project's implementation potential as well as implementation strategies. In conjunction with the TRP, develop Implementation activities/ tools such as draft specifications, policy guidelines, software, and training on new test/ practice/ equipment/ software and develop an implementation cost estimate, if applicable.
8. Near the completion of the research project, draft a final research report in accordance with the Tollway report format. (The timeline for the work plan must allow adequate time to prepare the report, typically three months.)
9. At least 45 days before the end date for the project, submit the draft final report to the Tollway for review and work with the TRP chair to finalize the content of the report.
10. Re-submit the final report to the Tollway for publication. The Tollway will post the final report to the Tollway website.
11. The publication or release of all work products, any information that is deemed confidential by the Tollway, or information which includes patentable results may not be published/ released without the Tollway's approval.

12. Include the Illinois Tollway acknowledgement statement and disclaimer statement (available on the Tollway website) in all publications and presentations regarding research sponsored partially or fully by the Tollway.



**APPENDIX C:  
PROPOSAL COVER SHEET FOR  
SOLICITATION #26-03**

**REVIEW OF CONCRETE PAVEMENT TRANSITION JOINT  
PERFORMANCE AND SOLUTIONS FOR OVERNIGHT REPAIRS**

**DUE: 6/26/2026**  
**TO: [research@getipass.com](mailto:research@getipass.com)**

<b>Submitted by: (Include Name and Address of Organization)</b>	
<b>Proposed Investigator(s):</b>	
<b>Corresponding Investigator Name:</b>	
<b>Corresponding Investigator Phone:</b>	
<b>Corresponding Investigator Fax:</b>	
<b>Corresponding Investigator Email:</b>	
<b>Submission Date:</b>	