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# Tollway Speed Limits

March 26, 2015

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# Today's Agenda

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- ▶ **Importance of safety**
- ▶ **Speed limit background**
- ▶ **Recent developments allow Tollway to increase speed limits**
  - ▶ Tollway performs studies using new IDOT policy
  - ▶ State of Illinois passes new legislation
- ▶ **Recommended speed limit increases**
- ▶ **Next steps**

# Safety is “The Bottom Line”

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## *Obligation to recommend speed limits safest for all motorists under the Professional Engineering Code of Ethics*

- ▶ **Tollway initiatives foster safe roadways for customers and reduce crashes**
  - ▶ Increased capacity by rebuilding and widening lanes (reduced crashes by 11 percent)
  - ▶ Completed conversion to open road tolling (reduced crashes by 12 percent)
  - ▶ Implemented an integrated incident management program (reduced crashes by 12 percent)
  
- ▶ **Tollway has a proven track record for quick incident response**
  - ▶ Less than 4 percent secondary crash rate
  - ▶ 30 minute average crash response and clearance time
  
- ▶ **Tollway’s long-term commitment to safety**
  - ▶ Continued efforts to increase capacity
  - ▶ Moving toward all-electronic tolling on new roadways
  - ▶ Implementing active traffic management

# Traffic Operations Safety Committee

- ▶ **Cross discipline committee represents all departments and operations at the Tollway**
- ▶ **Meets monthly to discuss wide range of system performance to ensure safe and efficient travel for customers**



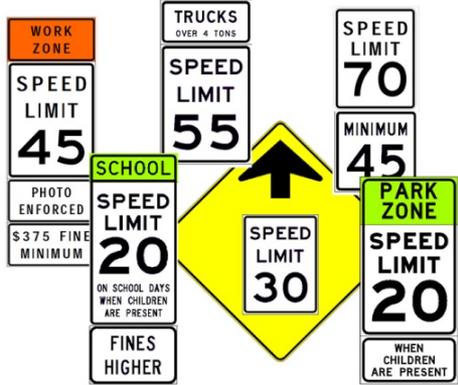
# Speed Limit Background

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- ▶ **Tollway Traffic Operations Safety Committee (TOSC) recommended review of speed limits in 2010**
  - ▶ Successful completion of open road tolling
  - ▶ Major segments of Congestion-Relief Program completed
  - ▶ Speed limit studies began in 2011
- ▶ **Illinois law raised maximum speed limit effective January 1, 2014**
  - ▶ Increased speed limits to 70 mph outside of urban districts for cars and outside of collar counties for buses and trucks.
- ▶ **Tollway raised speed limit for cars to 70 mph beginning January 2014**
  - ▶ I-90 west of I-39 Interchange (Cherry Valley)
  - ▶ I-88 west of Illinois Route 47
- ▶ **Tollway raised speed limit for trucks and buses to 70 mph beginning January 2014**
  - ▶ I-90 west of I-39 Interchange (Cherry Valley)
  - ▶ I-88 west of Kane County

# Recent Developments

- ▶ IDOT adopts new “Policy on Establishing and Posting Speed Limits on the State Highway System” in January 2014
- ▶ TOSC directs review of all Tollway segments using the latest IDOT methodology
- ▶ Tollway’s Traffic Engineer completes speed limit studies across Tollway system (except I-90 due to construction and previous rural increases)



**Policy on Establishing and Posting Speed Limits on the State Highway System**

Effective January 1, 2014



Illinois Department of Transportation

# Study Starts with 85th Percentile Speed

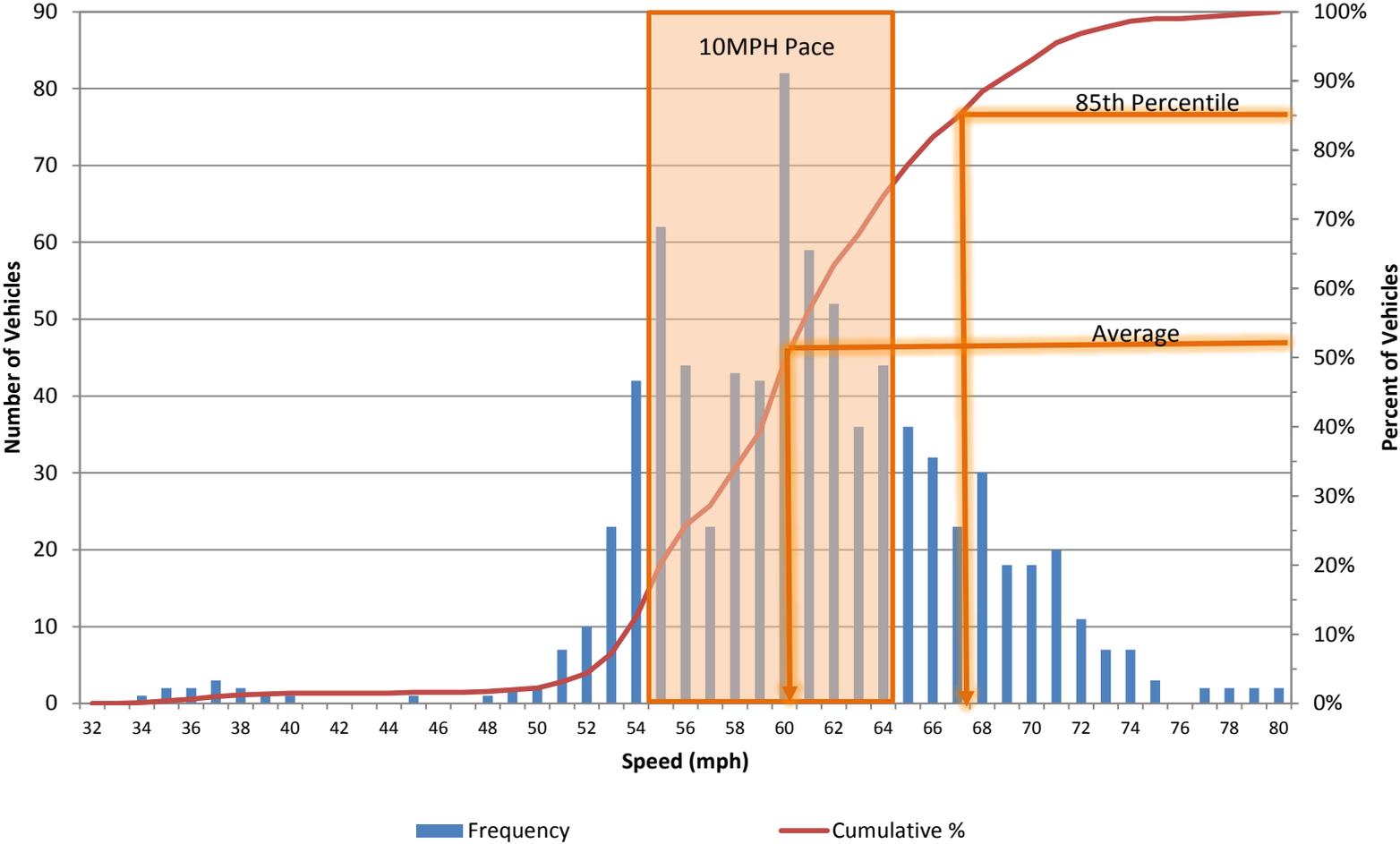
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*Speed at which 85 percent of the traffic is traveling at or below*

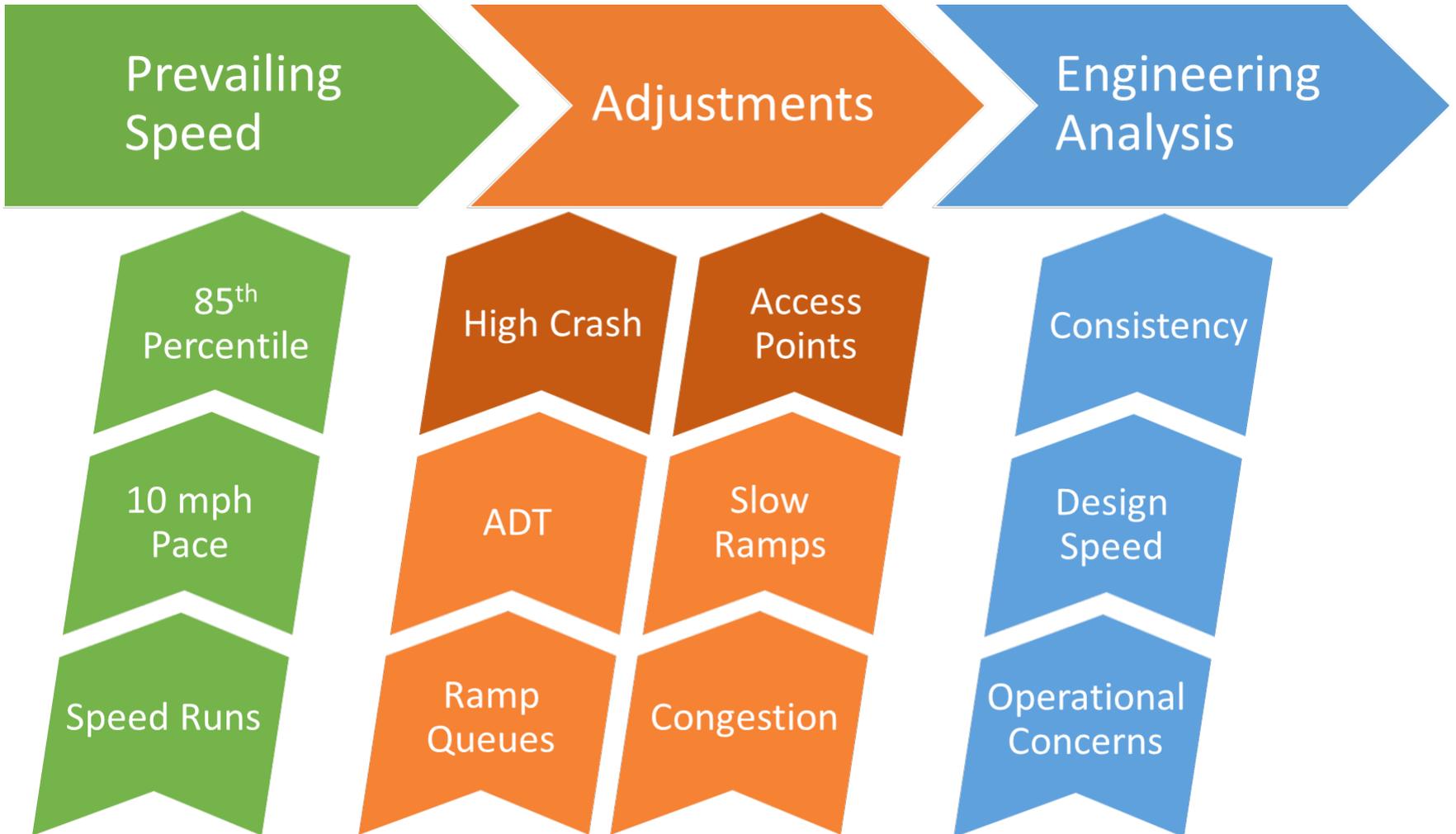
- ▶ **Taken under optimal conditions**
  - ▶ Free-flow conditions outside of rush hour or noon hour
  - ▶ Daylight hours
  - ▶ Weather conditions clear, pavement dry
  
- ▶ **Ensure accurate measurements**
  - ▶ Obtained discretely to avoid influencing speed of traffic
  - ▶ 100 readings per lane ensure sample represents all traffic
  - ▶ Spot speed typically measured in the center of the segment

# Sample Lidar Speed Distribution

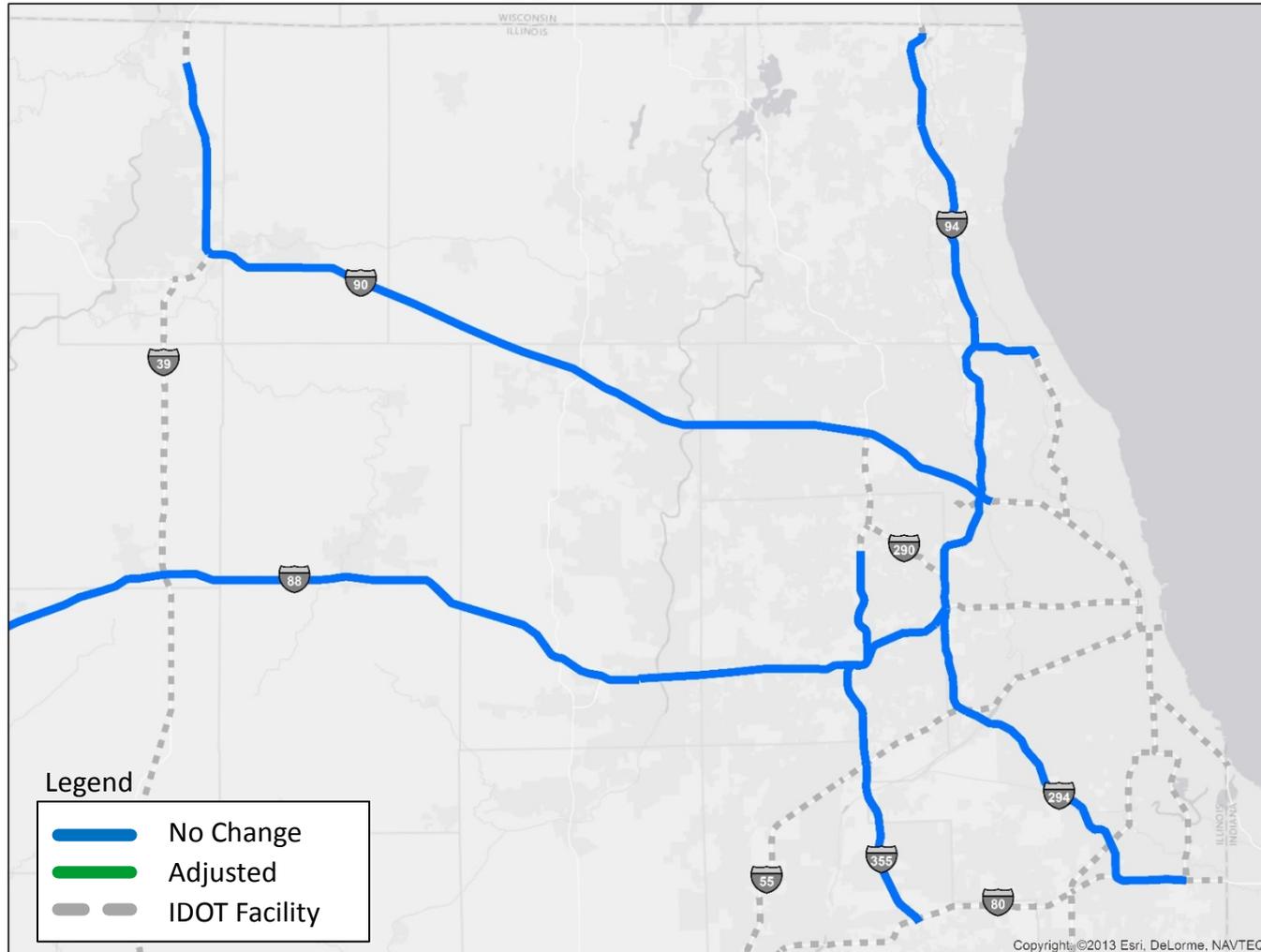
Tri-State Tollway (I-294) NB/SB (I-88 to I-55)



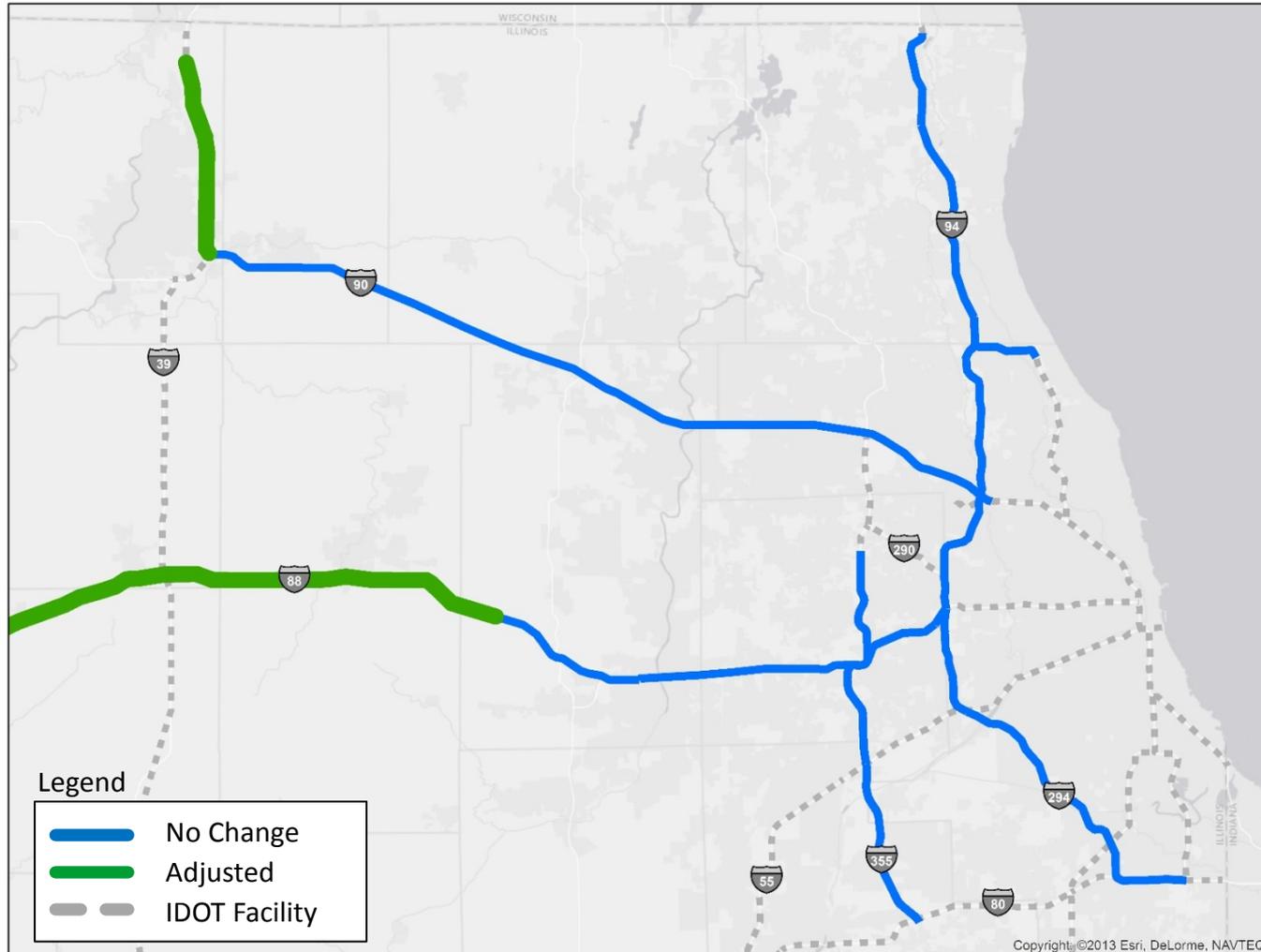
# IDOT Methodology



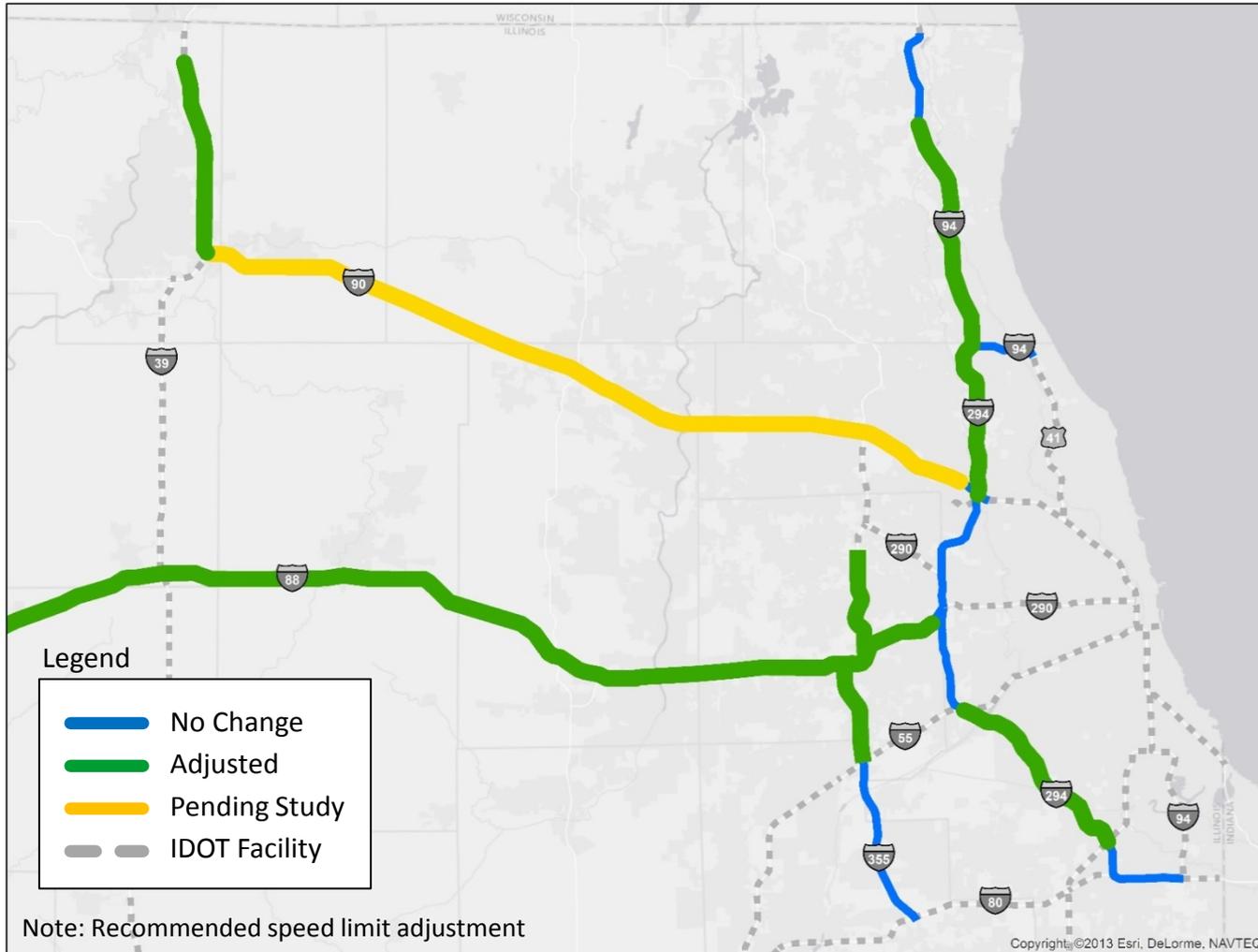
# Tollway System – Prior to 2014



# Increased Speed Limit Locations – 2014

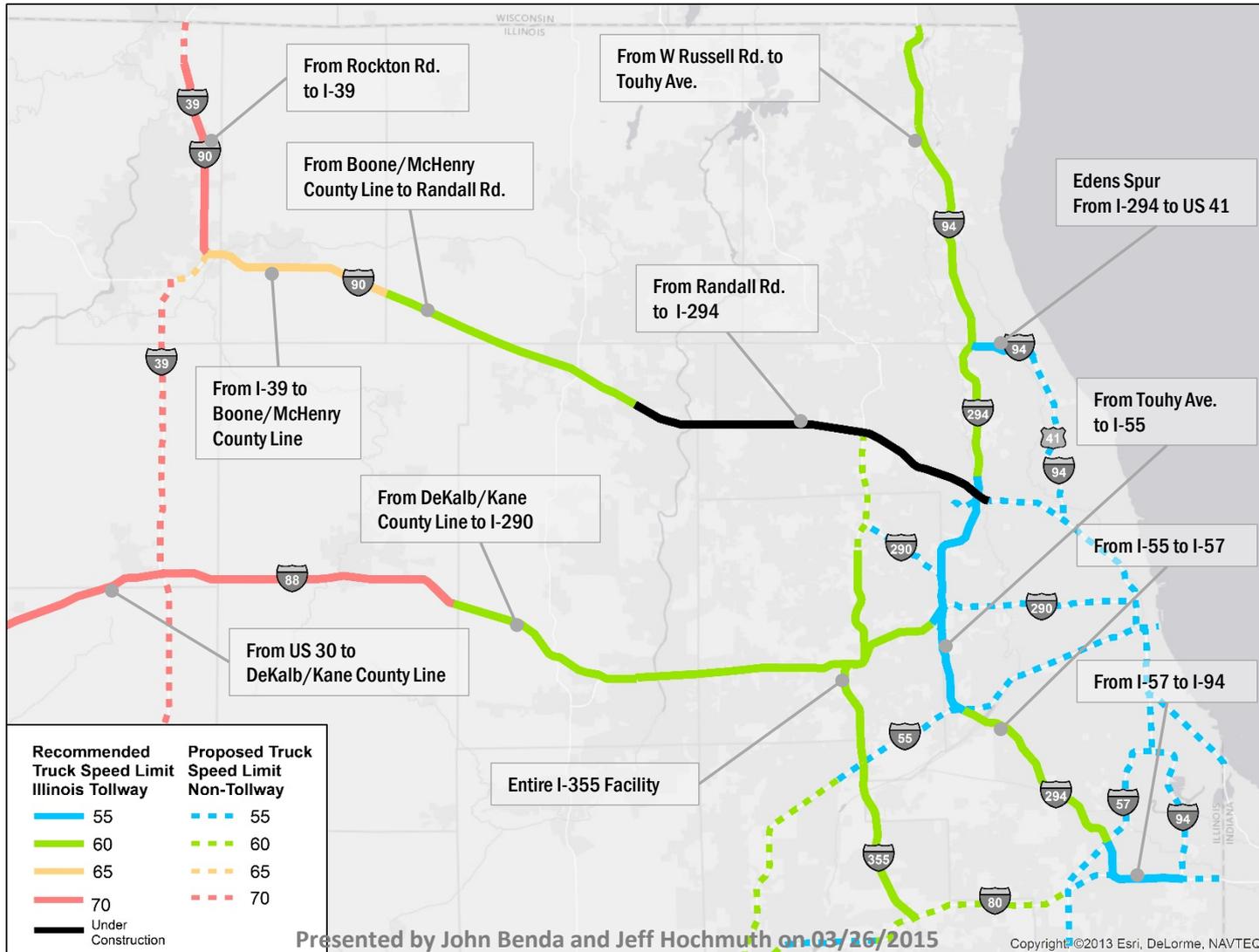


# Overall Speed Limit Changes





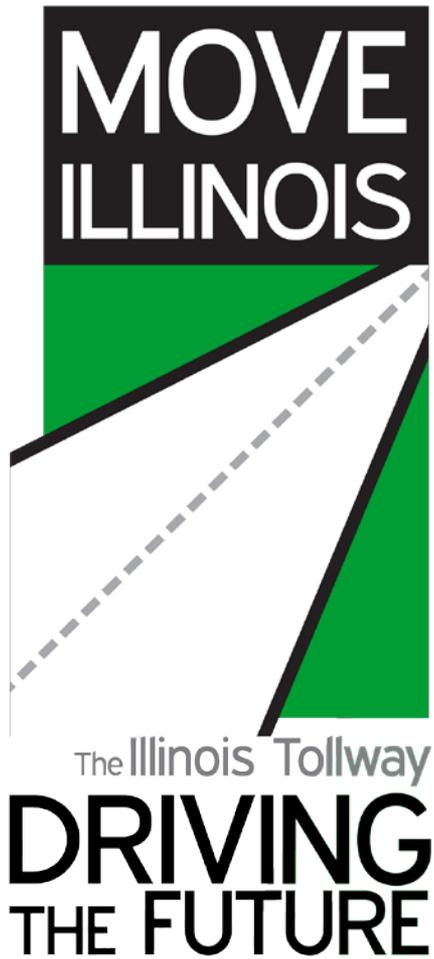
# Recommendations – Trucks



# Next Steps

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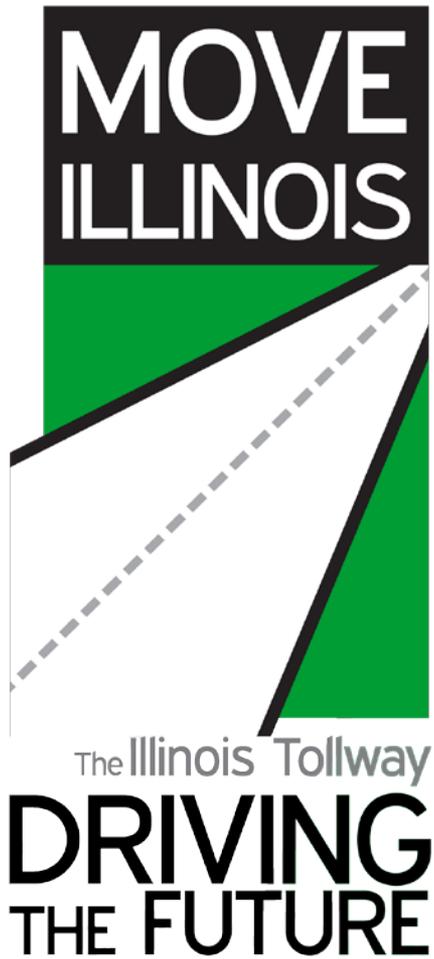
- ▶ **Board of Directors approve recommended speed limit increases**
- ▶ **Tollway sends recommendations to IDOT for concurrence and submits paperwork to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)**
- ▶ **Tollway submits the rule change to the Secretary of State for publication**
- ▶ **Upon approval, the Tollway's sign shop installs new speed limit signs (anticipated summer 2015)**



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**THANK YOU**

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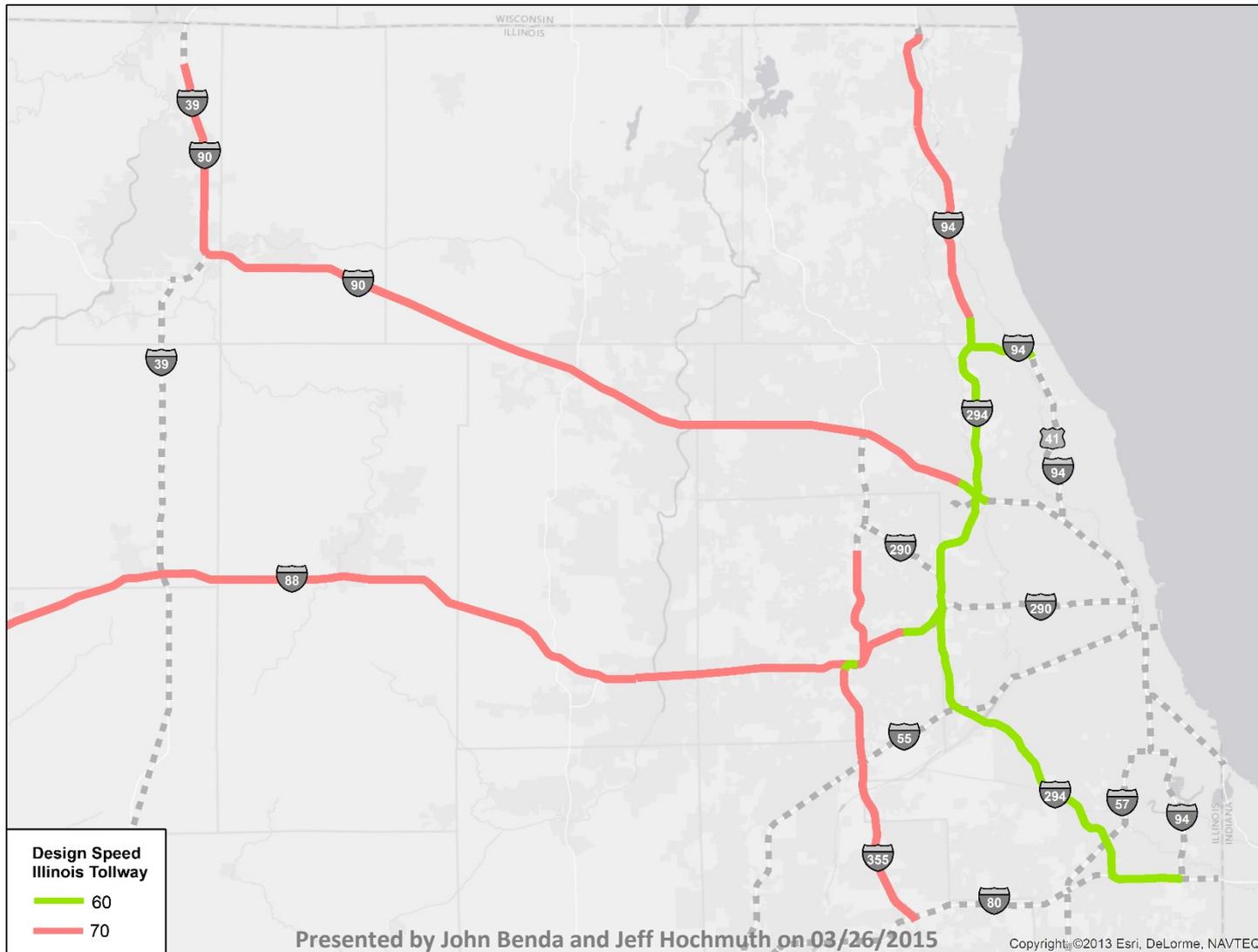


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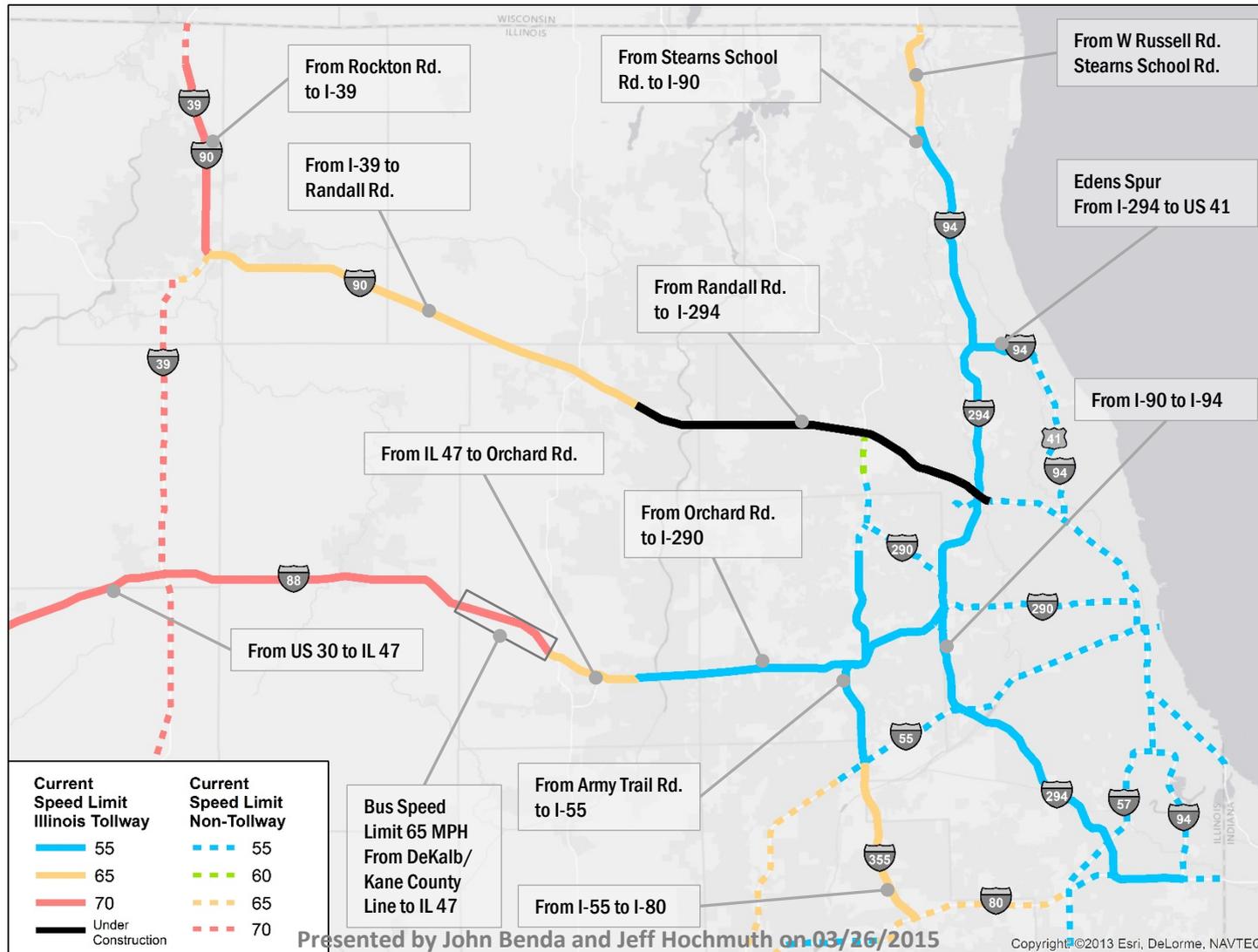
# Appendix

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# Design Speeds



# Current Speed Limit – Cars and Buses



# Current Speed Limit – Trucks

