



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON TENTATIVE 2026 BUDGET

Balanced spending plan allocates more than \$1.79 billion in annual revenue and supports more than \$1.26 billion for capital program

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway introduced a balanced Tentative 2026 Budget with \$1.79 billion of revenue today that includes \$467.7 million for annual maintenance and operations on the 294-mile system and provides funds to support \$1.26 billion in capital spending, including funding for the 15th year of the agency’s 16-year *Move Illinois* capital program and second year of the Bridging the Future capital plan.

“This Tentative 2026 Budget is a balanced spending plan developed with a focus on delivering the best possible service to our 1.6 million daily drivers through investments in new technology, system maintenance and our employees,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “We encourage the public to view the tentative budget online or at one of our public meetings and share their comments.”

As part of the Illinois Tollway’s 2026 Budget process, the general public is invited to visit the Illinois Tollway’s website www.illinoistollway.com to review the Tentative 2026 Budget book or view a recording of the presentation to the board. The public may also attend public hearings on Monday, November 17, at 6 p.m. at the Schaumburg Central Library, 130 South Roselle Road, Schaumburg or Thursday, November 20, at 1 p.m. at Illinois Tollway headquarters in Downers Grove.

In addition, written public comments also may be submitted online via the Tollway’s website www.illinoistollway.com, emailed to info@getipass.com or mailed to the Department of Stakeholder Engagement, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 by November 21.

After the Board of Directors has reviewed the public comments and any changes have been incorporated, a final budget will be presented for approval by the Board at its December meeting.

Tentative 2026 Budget

The Tentative 2026 Budget presented to the Tollway’s Board of Directors outlines a balanced spending plan to support customer service, safety and security, and employee investments to improve efficiency, as well as the implementation of the largest capital program in the agency’s history. The proposed spending plan allocates nearly \$1.318 billion for direct funding and debt service on capital investments, as well as \$467.7 million for maintenance and operations.

“The Illinois Tollway Board challenged staff to deliver a spending plan that invests our customers’ tolls wisely and maximizes efficiencies,” said Illinois Tollway Board of Directors Chairman Arnie Rivera. “The proposal we received today is a responsible budget that will allow the Tollway to continue to operate at the highest level of service and ensure continued deliver of infrastructure improvements systemwide.”

To support Tollway spending, the Tentative 2026 Budget includes a total \$1.79 billion in projected revenue, 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 toll increase planned for passenger vehicles which has not increased since 2012.

The 2026 budgeted annual revenue also includes \$50 million from investment income and \$2 million from concessions and miscellaneous revenue. The Tollway also plans to issue \$1 billion in new bonds in 2026 to provide funding for capital investments.

Overall, the 2026 Budget includes funding from Maintenance and Operations and Capital budgets to support activities and services that focus on serving the Illinois Tollway's customers. This includes allocating \$98.1 million for the Information Technology budget 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, as well as \$202.1 million allocated for Operations and Business Systems departments to provide customer services support and enhancements.

The Tentative 2026 Budget supports the Tollway's 2026 Capital Program that calls for investing \$1.26 billion in 2026 with \$374 million budgeted for systemwide maintenance of roadways facilities and fleet to keep the existing Tollway system in good repair, as well as along with funding for key projects including:

- \$328.9 million to continue reconstruction work for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.
- \$427.4 million to continue design and construction for the new I-490 Tollway and new interchanges including connections with the Illinois Route 390 Tollway and direct access in and out of O'Hare International Airport.

About *Move Illinois*

The Illinois Tollway's 16-year, \$15 billion *Move Illinois* capital program is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 165,220 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. During the first 14 years of *Move Illinois* the Tollway has delivered the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as a completed interchange connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57. Progress continues on projects addressing the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system, delivering the new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstructing the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

About Bridging the Future

Approved by the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors In December 2024, Bridging the Future is a seven-year, \$2 billion plan designed to continue infrastructure improvements, bridging the gap between the agency's current and next long-term capital program. Based on stakeholder feedback and engagement, Bridging the Future is addressing ongoing modernization initiatives and continuing to support investments in the people and firms working to improve regional mobility.

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.