Illinois Tollway

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





## **OVERVIEW**

The Illinois Tollway is dedicated to providing and promoting a safe and efficient system of highways while ensuring the highest possible level of service to our customers.

- counties in Northern Illinois—Cook, Lake, DuPage, Will, Kane, McHenry, Boone, Winnebago, DeKalb, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside
  - Northern Illinois—Cook, Lake, Il, Kane, McHenry, Boone, Cookalb Ogle Lee Whiteside
  - toll roads—Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), Illinois Route 390 Tollway



## **TOLLING**

The Tollway is a user-fee system – no state or federal tax dollars are used to support maintenance and operations. Operations are funded by toll revenues collected from our customers paying electronically with I-PASS or E-ZPass transponders or online though the Tollway's Pay By Plate service.

- 1.5 million average daily drivers
- 86% passenger vehicles 14 % commercial vehicles
- Average of 2.6 million daily toll transactions
- 936 million total toll transactions through December 31, 2021

#### I-PASS

- 38 million I-PASS transactions on E-ZPass roadways
- Nearly 5.2 million active I-PASS total accounts

Nearly 8.2 million active I-PASS total transponders

#### PAY-BY-PLATE

2 million Pay By Plate total accounts
 1.5 million new accounts in 2021



#### New Way to Pay Changing the Toll Payment Game

In 2021, 1.5 million new accounts were opened to use the Illinois Tollway's Pay By Plate service, raising usage to more than two million customers leveraging the service to pay their tolls seamlessly online. And, nearly 60 percent of the users signing up for the new convenient way to pay are from out of state.

In the wake of a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Tollway responded with extensive mitigation efforts including the halt to cash toll payments. With an urgent need to find new ways for customers to pay, the Tollway's operations and business team accelerated the development of a new technology designed to let infrequent

and out of state customers set up a service to pay tolls for either short term, one-time payments for rental cars, or ongoing and infrequent use.

And while I-PASS is still the best, most costeffective way to pay tolls on the Illinois Tollway, Pay By Plate now offers former cash customers a way to safely and securely pay unpaid tolls without an I-PASS transponder or I-PASS account.

#### PAY-BY-PLATE



#### **I-PASS Assist Expands**

The Illinois Tollway opened enrollment to a significantly enhanced I-PASS Assist program in June 2021 to help customers realize the benefits of I-PASS. The program's aim is to ensure all Illinois residents are able to both attain, and more importantly retain, the financial benefits of using an I-PASS transponder when traveling on the Illinois Tollway system.

I-PASS customers save 50 percent on tolls and have the advantage of easily managing vehicles and travel costs online. As a condition of these benefits, customers are required to fund their accounts prior to incurring tolls, periodically replenish their accounts and maintain a transponder in their vehicle.

Often times, economically disadvantaged customers are reluctant to sign up for I-PASS due to the deposit required on transponders as well as the initial minimum prepayment and minimum, ongoing autoreplenishment amounts when account balances become low.

To be eligible for enrollment in I-PASS Assist, household income cannot exceed 250 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines as verified by the Illinois Department of Revenue. For reference, an individual making \$31,900/year and a family of four making

\$65,500/year would be eligible to enroll in I-PASS Assist.

Under the enhanced I-PASS Assist Program, the financial requirements associated with an I-PASS have been reduced across the board for qualifying customers.

- •No transponder deposit required (currently \$10 deposit)
- •Open and fund an account with as little as \$4 in initial prepaid tolls (currently \$20)
- •Automatic account replenishment on low balances, as little as \$4 (currently \$10 minimum)

In addition, to help income-eligible customers retain the benefits of I-PASS, invoice fees, if any, will be eligible for dismissal through customer service for accounts in good standing. Fee avoidance has been found to be critical to assisting customers keep accounts in good standing.





## CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Illinois Tollway is dedicated to providing and promoting a safe and efficient system of highways while ensuring the highest possible level of service to our customers. Whether it's I-PASS, the *Move Illinois* program, open road tolling or keeping you safe with our H.E.L.P. trucks, we are committed to delivering great benefits and services to customers.



2.0 Nearly million customer calls to 1.800.UC-IPASS



52 Mearly million

total website sessions in 2021.

or

More 4.2

2 thousand website sessions a day

15 Nearly million total annual visits to **getipass.com** 

10 More than million total amoust visits to illinoistollway.com

1,121

Zero Patrol contacts

834

Heat Patrol contacts

37 Nearly thousand Calls to \*999

27 thousand Contacts hand ed by H.E.L.P. Trucks

104 More tran

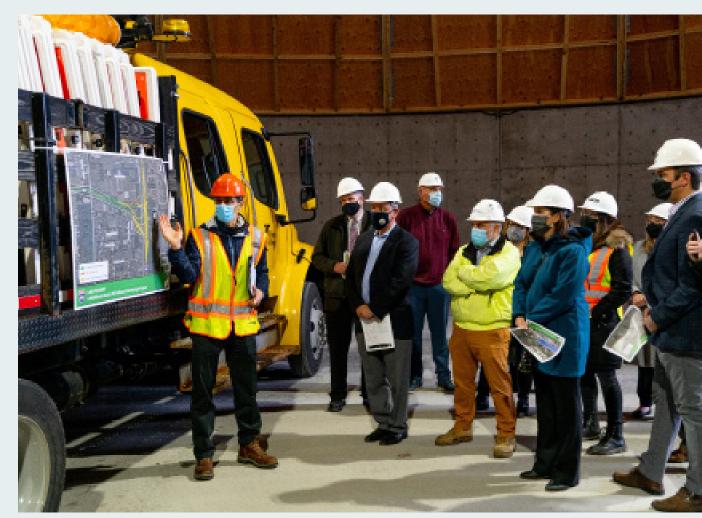
Calls received by

Tollway 911 Dispatch



# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to supporting the communities and businesses we serve through participating in outreach events, supporting public involvement opportunities and engaging stakeholders. Tollway planning, engineering and diversity staff participated in more than 250 outreach and interagency meetings.



#### Illinois Tollway 2021 Stakeholder Site Visits

In an effort to showcase the amazing work our agency is doing to improve and build new roadways, bridges, interchanges and buildings systemwide, the Illinois Tollway developed a series tours in the summer of 2021 hosting Board Members, legislators, local leaders and other stakeholders.

The sites that were selected provided a well-rounded glimpse at the substantial investments our agency is making in our regional infrastructure, which include both vertical and horizontal construction sites, as well as a mix of projects that represent the Tollway's systemwide renewal and expansion.

The staff, board and project team members who hosted and attended these visits benefited from getting "out into the field," seeing our work firsthand and having the opportunity to talk with project and construction managers on site to make the connection with the contracts, intergovernmental agreements and procurement needed to be coordinated by other departments.

Each on-site tour, provided access to Tollway planning and engineering staff, as well key design and construction personnel responsible for delivering the projects.

The new Aurora M-8 Maintenance Facility tour offered an in-depth look at the construction of one of our newest maintenance facilities that relocated from Naperville to Aurora. These state-of-the-art, LEED-certified facilities are replacing the Tollway's aging M-sites across the system and will serve our roadway teams into the next century.

The Mile-Long Bridge Construction Site tour showcased this incredibly complex project to replace the existing Mile-Long Bridge on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) spanning multiple waterways, railroads and a city of freight and industry below. Adding in the nearby dismantling of half of the bridge originally built in the 1950's, while the second new bridge structure is under construction, walking the amazing work site provided a ground up view of the Mile-Long Bridge Project in full swing.

The Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange Construction Site tour provided a look at one of the few places in the nation where two interchanges previously weren't connected. Phase One, completed in 2014, provided access to and from Champaign, while Phase Two currently underway is providing access to and from Chicago. Stops at construction on I-294, on I-57 and on the ground under the new ramps provided a view of the enormous fly-over ramp completing the connection between two heavily traveled interstates in Chicago's Southland.

Tours also included visits to the new Bensenville (M-16) maintenance site and a view of construction continuing to connect the Illinois Route 390 Tollway to I-490.

The Tollway plans to use these visits as a template in the future to bring to life the critical work of the agency.



## SAFETY FIRST

The Illinois Tollway is committed to supporting the communities and businesses we serve through participating in outreach events, supporting public involvement opportunities and engaging stakeholders.

Tollway planning, engineering and diversity staff participated in more than 250 outreach and interagency meetings.

### American Public Works Association Awards Tollway for Excellence in Snow and Ice Control

In recognition of its outstanding work during winter storms to keep customers safe and roads clear, the Illinois Tollway received the 2021 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award from the American Public Works Association.

The award is presented annually to select public works and transportation agencies that demonstrate sustained achievement in clearing snow and ice from their roadways to ensure they continue operating safely during severe winter weather. The Tollway was one of three agencies in North America to receive the award.

The Tollway prepares for winter weather year-round by servicing its fleet of nearly 200 snowplows, procuring salt and other de-icing materials and refining its operational plans to better respond to a variety of storm conditions.

The Tollway uses snowplows equipped with smart technologies that helps them efficiently clear snow and ice, while also allowing drivers to adjust the amounts of salt and other de-icing materials dispersed to limit their impact on our environment. Using various concentrations of chlorides, brine

solutions, beet-heat and aggregates enables the Tollway to address varying winter weather conditions on different segments of the Tollway system to better remove wind-blown or hardpacked snow from roadways.

During winter storms, the Illinois Tollway has a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors working per shift, around the clock, if necessary, to ensure that roadways are kept clear of snow and ice.

The Tollway also typically deploys plows in advance of storms to pre-treat key portions of its system to slow the buildup of snow and ice on roadways, then continues cleanup operations following storms to remove snow from shoulders and medians to provide the safest possible roadway conditions for drivers.

#### **Traffic Safety Challenge**

Illinois State Police District (ISP) 15 took first place in its division in the 28th Annual Traffic Safety Challenge and first place overall for Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement. ISP District 15 Sergeant Martinez was also awarded the "Looking Beyond the Safety Belt" Award.

The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge is a friendly competition between similar size and type of law enforcement agencies coordinated annually by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Committee.

#### **FHWA Better Mousetrap Competition**

The Federal Highway Administration selected the Illinois Tollway's Roadway Electric Training System as one of the winners of its 2021 Build a Better Mousetrap Competition. It is the first time an Illinois project has been selected as a winner of this national award since the competition began in 2009.

Each year, the FHWA's Better Mousetrap Competition looks for practical, proven and cost-effective innovations from transportation agencies across the country. The FHWA collaborates with local Technical Assistance Program centers to identify best practices of local transportation agencies, recognize the individuals and organizations that have found a better way to perform day-to-day business and share their improvements with their peers nationwide.

The Tollway's Roadway Electric Training System won in the Bold Steps category, which recognizes a locally relevant high-risk project or process showing a breakthrough solution with demonstrated high reward.

The Build a Better Mousetrap Competition solicits ideas and inventions that focus on new or modified tools and equipment or feature streamlined processes that help local transportation agencies increase safety, reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

The Tollway's Roadway Electric Training System can be transported and set up at any

maintenance facility or anywhere else in about an hour. This allows seasoned roadway electric workers to conduct the trainings side-by-side with probationary technicians in a safe, comfortable environment

The Roadway Electric Training System is costeffective, as well. It was built using mostly discarded or scrap parts found around Illinois Tollway facilities – an old light pole, lights and wires from poles damaged in roadway incidents and wood, metal and other parts from the carpenter and sign shops. In total, the new equipment cost about \$1,315 – about half as much as it might cost to buy off the shelf.



## CONSTRUCTION

#### Move Illinois Program Update (2012-2021)

Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region.

The first 10 years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering 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 opening a new 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 reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

- 62.2 percent of the program is complete (work in place)
- \$10.7 billion or 75.1 percent of the program budget committed
- \$6.3 billion, or approximately 44.5 percent, in construction work
- \$2.8 billion, or approximately 20.0 percent, in consultant services
- \$1.6 billion, or approximately 11.6 percent, in other costs (utilities, right-of-way, misc.)
- \$193.8 million in reimbursement agreements has been approved; reducing overall program costs by 1.4 percent

#### **2021 Construction and Professional Services Contract Awards:**

All businesses, communities and the state were challenged by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, by creating these opportunities the Illinois Tollway did its part to help keep businesses running and people working as we work to deliver roadway and infrastructure improvements to our customers.

- 62 construction and professional engineering services contracts totaling more than \$758
- Awarded a total of more than \$209 million to DBE firms – 20 percent of all construction contracts and 49 percent of all professional engineering services contracts
- Awarded nearly 15.6 million to veteranowned firms
- 81 percent of the contracts awarded were unbundled or small business initiative contracts that provided opportunities for small, diverse and veteran-owned firms to serve as primes

## American Society of Civil Engineers Recognizes Illinois Tollway for Innovations in Sustainability

Completed in December 2021, the Illinois Tollway's newest maintenance facility in Aurora is already earning accolades from the statewide engineering community for its numerous sustainable features.

The American Society of Civil Engineers, Illinois Section, selected the Tollway's new Aurora maintenance facility as the winner of its Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement Award. The Tollway's \$40.5 million, 95,000-square-foot maintenance facility was built to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification standards for sustainable design and construction.

ASCE Illinois presents the Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement Award annually for civil engineering projects that exhibit the greatest innovations in sustainability and demonstrate adherence to the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The award recognizes engineering innovations that extend future developments in sustainability and projects that extend the public understanding of sustainability in design and construction

The new Aurora maintenance facility is located on a 19-acre site adjacent to the Aurora Toll Plaza and operates 24/7 to serve the roadway needs of the eastern segment of the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), from a little west of Aurora to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294). The new facility replaces the original facility in Naperville, which had exceeded its life expectancy since it was built in 1958 and could no longer support the services required for modern roadway maintenance operations.

The Illinois Tollway is taking advantage of this opportunity to apply best practices in design and construction to build more efficient, sustainable and environmentally responsible maintenance facilities across its system in Northern Illinois.

The new Aurora maintenance facility is designed to more efficiently and effectively deliver critical roadway services to the motoring public and features numerous sustainable features to achieve LEED status, including:

- •Refueling equipment for low-emitting and fuelefficient vehicles, as well as electric vehicle charging stations
- Installation of white thermoplastic polyolefin roofing and low-reflectivity concrete pavement to reduce the "heat island" effect
- •LED electronically programed exterior lighting and self-adjusting interior occupancy lighting to reduce light pollution
- •Geofoam installation for ground stabilization and reduced loading
- •Photovoltaic panels to feed power back into the grid, making the Aurora maintenance facility approximately 44 percent more efficient than a facility of similar size and function
- •Skylights and punched openings in the pre-cast wall panels use translucent, insulating glass and polycarbonate panels to provide abundant natural lighting and reduce the need for interior lighting during daylight hours.
- •In-floor hydronic radiant heat and overhead natural gas radiant heat, along with installation of low-flow fixtures, further reduce energy and water costs

The Aurora maintenance facility includes the Tollway's first permanent, high-production brine-making equipment to assist with snow and ice control. It also features a storm water management system to improve the quality of storm water discharge before it reaches nearby waterways, including the Fox River, which is located half a mile west of the site and serves as a source of drinking water for residents and businesses in major cities such as Aurora and Elgin and many other communities in Kane and Cook counties.

#### **Building Bridges Brings the Illinois Tollway and Communities Together**

While construction is not without inconvenience, the Illinois Tollway takes on every project committed to reducing that impact on its customers and communities, along with the goal of delivering new and improved roads and bridges on scheduled and within budget.

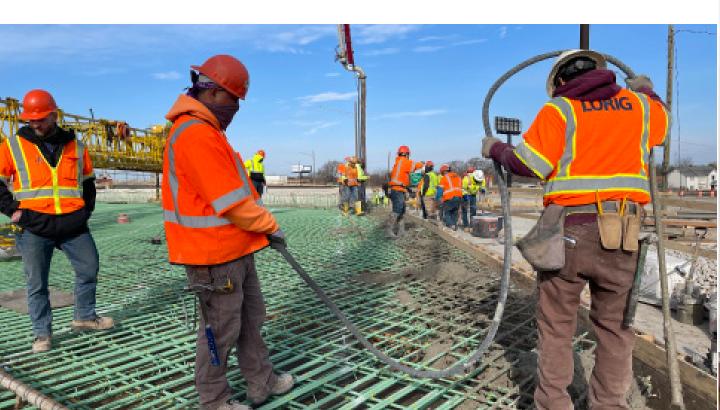
So, in 2021 when the Tollway reopened two local crossroad bridges – one in Gurnee crossing the Tri-State Tollway (I-94) and another in Oak Brook crossing ramps connecting the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) – ahead of schedule, there was good reason for everyone to call them jobs well done.

The new bridge was built to accommodate future local roadway improvements anticipated by the village and the county, so the \$12 million project includes \$5.4 million in local cost participation from Village of Gurnee and Lake County for the extra improvements.

The project team in Lake County was able to start construction about two weeks earlier than originally intended due to close coordination with local partners and IDOT. In addition, there was a strong push to complete the project prior to any holiday shopping season, so the project's local partners allowed the bridge closure and detour to start earlier than planned.

In Oak Brook, the Tollway contributed \$7.5 million to rebuild the Windsor Drive Bridge carrying local traffic over the Tollway's ramps I-88 and I-294 needed to accommodate work by the Village of Oak Brook to widen Windsor Drive.

The cooperation allowed the Village an opportunity to substantially complete its portion of the project ahead of the winter season and cut the time of disruption to the adjacent businesses by more than six months.





The Illinois Tollway is a driving force for increasing economic opportunities in the diverse communities we serve. The Tollway provides small, diverse and veteran businesses and individuals with opportunities to grow and succeed through our training programs, business assistance and strategic partnerships.

#### **Supporting Businesses**

Hosted 37 webinar events

## Partnering for Growth (Construction)

- 7 new agreements with primes/proteges
- 20 agreements since start of the program in 2018

## Partnering for Growth (Professional Services)

- 10 new agreements with prime/ proteges
- 200 agreements since start of program inception in 2005

#### **Small Business Initiative**

- 165 unique firms enrolled
- 28 small business contracts awarded
- 7 small business set-aside
- 21 small business initiative

#### **Supporting Workers**

- 56 earned credit program participants hired
- 14 construction works program participants hired

#### Introducing a Rolling Owner-Controlled Insurance Program

Business Initiative, the Tollway introduced a first-ofits-kind Rolling Owner-Controlled Insurance Program to break down the barriers remaining for many small and minority businesses.

28 contracts awarded to registered small businesses were approved for ROCIP assistance to provide liability committed in 2021.

As part of the resources supporting the Small coverage for on-site activities for enrolled contractors and subcontractors. This ensured participation by 16 unique registered prime contractors and 27 unique registered subcontractors.

The Tollway estimates that nearly \$200 million in Since the program began in 2021, firms on 27 of the contracts work will be eligible over a three-year period for ROCIP, including \$36 million in contracts

#### Continuing Technical Assistance Services for Diverse Construction and **Engineering Firms**

In 2021, the Illinois Tollway recommitted to strengthen and expand the technical assistance training and services offered to small, diverse transportationrelated construction firms seeking to compete for Tollway projects.

Building on it's already successful Technical Assistance Program, the Tollway is continuing assistance to construction firms and expanding offerings to help professional engineering firms.

The Tollway Board of Directors awarded a new threeyear contract valued at \$15.9 million to Inner-City Underwriting Agency and The Mexican American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. The contract may be renewed for an additional two years. The agencies will collaborate to provide comprehensive business development and coaching assistance to disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned construction businesses, as well as offer those resources to veteran-owned, small construction businesses and firms providing engineering services.

The Illinois Tollway's Technical Assistance Program is intended to increase the pool of small and diverse businesses that are qualified to compete for contracts as prime contractors and subcontractors in the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion Move Illinois capital program.

The technical assistance services will be provided at no charge to businesses participating in the program, which is open to businesses located in the 12 Northern Illinois counties served by the Tollway.

Businesses participating in the Technical Assistance Program receive comprehensive, customized business development assistance to build financial understanding and business plan development for increased business stability and growth in the transportation-related construction industry.

Services are customized to the assessed strengths, challenges and needs of participating firms. This includes education, guidance and feedback on general business and construction-specific operations, including strategic planning and assistance with the Illinois Department of Transportation prequalification applications.

Programs are either self-paced, allowing participants to determine how quickly the program is completed, or cohort-based, in which participants work in a group setting that invites a collaborative learning environment.

Since it was launched, the Tollway's Technical Assistance Program has provided support and training to more than 750 firms working to succeed and grow through July 2021. Locations providing technical assistance for businesses are in Chicago, Cook County, the south suburbs and Rockford.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to fostering environmental responsibility and sustainability. Working together with communities and regulatory agencies, the Tollway strives to plan, design and construct roadway projects in accordance with local, state and federal regulations while using best practices to protect and enhance the natural and physical environment.

#### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In 2021, Tollway projects made use of a variety of recycled materials including:

- 131,723 tons of recycled asphalt pavement
- 257,282 tons of recycled concrete
- 14,752 tons of recycled fly ash
- 10,971 tons of slag
- 3,815 tons of asphalt shingles
- 15,592 recycled tires

#### Earth Day 2021

The Illinois Tollway celebrated Earth Day 2021 by sharing wildflower seed packets while serving customers by Tollway H.E.L.P. truck drivers and at customer service centers at gateway oases locations.

The annual effort is aimed to support of its ongoing pollinator program to restore and create habitat for monarch butterflies and other important pollinators.

Working with The Conservation Foundation, with input from the Xerces Society, local nurseries and the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tollway developed a unique seed mix for use along Tollway right-of-way. These efforts are part of the agency's pollinator program to enhance and create habitat for monarch butterflies and other important pollinators along tollway roadsides throughout the 12 counties the Tollway serves.



#### Illinois Tollway Surpasses Milestone of Planting 58,000 Trees

In October 2021, the Illinois Tollway surpassed its goal to plant 58,000 new trees along its system of roadways crossing 12 counties, and planting is ongoing.

The milestone occurred during planting of new trees and shrubs along the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355).

Within The Morton Arboretum, the Center for Tree Science and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative have been focused on increasing the region's tree canopy. The Tollway has partnered with these groups to develop and implement a comprehensive program that advances the region's tree canopy across the Tollway's landscape.

As part of its Landscape Master Plan adopted in 2016, the Tollway mapped out a plan to enhance its right-of-way space with new trees, shrubs and native grasses and flowers. To meet the 58,000-goal included in the plan, the Tollway counted the planting of five shrubs as the equivalent of one tree.

In simple terms, adding 58,000 trees and shrubs would have required adding a new planting every 27 feet along the 294-mile Tollway system if all the new plantings were evenly spaced. But according to Bryan Wagner, the Tollway's environmental policy and program manager, the plan wasn't that simple.

The Tollway's Environmental staff, led by senior

landscape architect Jeff Schneberg, first looked at the more rural and open areas along the Tollway system. As they got started, staff quickly realized that what at first glance appeared to be wide open land in reality included drainage systems, underground fiber optics, overhead power lines and sometimes bike trails running alongside the roadways.

In the end, the Tollway identified locations around interchanges and along the mainline on every one of the five roadways that make up the Tollway system.

While planting tens of thousands of trees over a relatively short period can be considered a success on its own merits, the Tollway also has taken steps to ensure the program is a success over the long haul.

Species were selected for their resiliency to salt spray and harsh roadway conditions and being native to the region. The list includes a wide variety of shade trees such as ginkgo, honey locust, coffee trees, elm, maples, lilacs, as well as evergreens and nearly a dozen varieties of shrubs.

While the Tollway is celebrating this milestone achievement, there are plans for additional trees to be planted as part of the reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and the new I-490 Tollway.

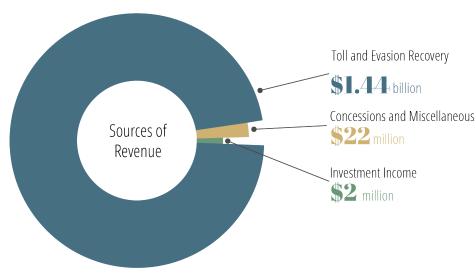


## FINANCIALS

#### Preliminary and Unaudited

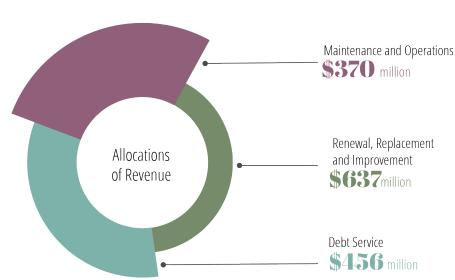
#### 2021 SOURCES OF REVENUE

The Illinois Tollway is a user-funded system that receives no state or federal funding for maintenance and operations.



#### 2021 ALLOCATIONS OF REVENUE

Allocations are made from revenue collected on a cash basis and may differ from revenue that is booked on an accrual basis



#### \$1.23 BILLION IN CAPITAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Capital expenditures are for roadway reconstruction, expansion and systemwide maintenance. Does not reflect reimbursements received pursuant to intergovernmental agreements. The capital program is also funded by proceeds from bond sales.

2021 financial information is preliminary and subject to change

