



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER NAMED YOUNG GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Illinois Tollway Senior Project Engineer Laura Thompson has been selected the 2019 Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award by the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

“Laura Thompson has made a great professional impression on her colleagues by managing large-scale public improvement projects, incorporating 3-D modeling for construction projects and helping to improve bidding, design and coordination,” according to the ASCE Illinois Section Awards Committee. “She has also impressed STEM students by volunteering her time and knowledge to schools and coworkers to mentor the next future young engineers.”

The ASCE Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award is presented annually to a professional engineer 35 years of age or less who has demonstrated outstanding engineering achievement in the public sector, served to advance the civil engineering profession and contributed to community service.

“The work that Laura Thompson has accomplished since joining the Illinois Tollway demonstrates the depth of engineering talent we have working for our customers,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “Laura has used her engineering expertise, management abilities and communications skills to play a leadership role on complex projects, and we are pleased to see her efforts being recognized by the engineering community.”

Thompson was recognized by ASCE Illinois for her work on complex Tollway projects, including the I-290 Interchange Project at the Illinois Route 390 Tollway, as well as infrastructure improvements on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355).

Since joining the Tollway in 2013, her responsibilities include managing schedules, budgets, project scope, contract negotiations, team oversight and compliance with standards and manuals, as well as utilizing problem-solving management skills to overcome unseen obstacles. She also serves as the primary point of contact coordinating among designers, contractors, construction managers, utility representatives and various governmental and regulatory agencies.

Thompson has also taken an active role identifying new ways to deliver projects, recently spearheading the implementation of 3-D modeling on the Illinois Route 47 Interchange on I-88. This effort requires significant coordination internally, as well as with industry, to use 3-D modeling to foster more efficient construction, save time and reduce costs.

In addition, Thompson volunteers her knowledge and experience to encourage students to pursue careers in engineering. She has visited the ASCE student chapter at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to meet with college students interested in civil engineering and spoke with middle school students at Aurora’s University’s STEM Partnership School to share her career experience.

Each year, ASCE Illinois recognizes outstanding civil engineers and civil engineering projects throughout Northern Illinois. The complete list of [2019 award recipients](#) is posted on the ASCE Illinois website, isasce.org.

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.

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