

ACEC-IL Illinois Tollway Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Virtual

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ACEC Committee Members

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Illinois Tollway Leadership

Meeting Minutes Recorder: Niki Nutter, AICP – PMCS, LLC

Tollway Attendees: Cassaundra Rouse, John Donato, Manar Nashif, Dave Donovan, Marlene Vick, Cindy Williams, Karyn Robles, Jackie Forbes, Sarah Kim, Jeff Allen, Laura Durkin, Johnny Morcos (Tollway PMO), Jim Mayer (Tollway PMO), Mike Valentino (Tollway GEC)

1. ACEC Updates (Kevin Artl)
 - a. Legislative activity in Springfield continues to focus heavily on the Chicago Bears stadium discussions, including the infrastructure needs both on and off the proposed campus.
 - b. ACEC is supporting IDOT's pursuit of project delivery legislation, including measures to streamline land acquisition and expand condemnation authority for public property.
 - c. At the federal level, IJA is scheduled to sunset on September 30, 2026. A bipartisan draft reauthorization was released this week, proposing continued IJA-level funding with increases and a stronger emphasis on formula funding. Passage before the election cycle is unlikely, making a continuing resolution the most probable outcome as a temporary measure.
 - d. The statewide UCP database included 2,448 firms in October 2025 and currently includes 1,238 firms. Relative to IDOT pre-qualified firms the number has decreased from 140 firms in October 2025 to 90 currently. The decrease in pre-qualified DBE firms is driven by some firms choosing not to apply for recertification and by out-of-state firms still completing interstate certification.
2. Tollway Comments (Cassaundra Rouse/John Donato)
 - a. Cassaundra emphasized the importance of its partnership with ACEC and highlighted the continued momentum of the Bridging the Future capital program. The program includes 53 active contracts since inception and is expected to deliver approximately \$1.2B in capital spending (including Move Illinois) in 2026, with even more activity anticipated in 2027.
 - b. Planning for the next capital program is underway. When the Tollway is ready to present the proposed program, industry support, particularly during required public hearings related to toll adjustments, will be essential. ACEC members will be encouraged to attend hearings and show support for the program.
 - c. Tollway leadership expressed appreciation for ACEC's collaboration in shaping and delivering current and future programs.
 - d. ACEC indicated that we are ready to support when called upon.
3. ACEC Tollway subcommittee goals and updates (Jason Martin)
 - a. Upon Request Contract Management (Mark Heaton - Hanson)
 - i. The subcommittee recently met with the Tollway team to discuss Upon Request task tracking and management. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss challenges observed on current Upon Request (DUR/CUR) contracts and identify opportunities for improved contract administration, tracking, and communication between the Tollway and consultant teams.

- ii. Considering updates to the tracking forms to include subconsultant budgets and expenditures by task. A draft was shared with the subcommittee for review and comment.
 - iii. Tollway is looking into updates to the book meeting to better capture accruals, construction budgets, and related information. One key point discussed is that on all contracts, a change in scope shall be identified and negotiated before any of the out-of-scope work is undertaken. Work may not proceed on out-of-scope items without written approval from the Illinois Tollway.
 - iv. Considering guidance for managing Upon Request contracts that will be provided by Tollway at the Contract kick-off meeting.
- b. Consultant Rate Forms (CRF) and Invoicing (Denis Hogan – Baxter & Woodman)
 - i. The committee has met with Tollway Engineering multiple times to better understand the needs of the CRF forms and determine if there is a different way to accomplish those needs that would be easier and less time-consuming for Tollway and for Consultants.
 - ii. ACEC has made a recommendation, and Tollway provided a template to address that recommendation. In general, the recommendation is to use rate ranges by classification and to associate Key Personnel required in the PSB to specific classifications.
 - iii. The template is currently being circulated within the Tollway for review.
 - iv. The Committee met with Tollway to begin discussions about the invoice process. Key discussion points included required updates to match the new Proposal forms and clarification regarding the Explanation Letters.
- c. CM Field Document Efficiencies (Luke Schumacher – ICE)
 - i. Digital Surveying, Data Collection, and Methods of Measurement
 - 1. Drones for quantity measurement
 - Industry seems to be happy with the new specifications as of right now.
 - Reminder that Tollway work is not federally funded, so the ban on foreign made drones does not apply to their work.
 - ii. Efficiencies with field documentation entry into Trimble
 - 1. Electronic Field Book
 - Headlight pilot had its pros and cons
 - If anyone has used other software that they would suggest for Tollway work, please reach out to Luke.
 - iii. Committee is working on ways to update the Material Tracking process for the Tollway. The main idea here is to find a better way to keep the A5's up to date or find a new process altogether.
 - 1. Material holdbacks seem to be a reoccurring issue. Hopefully the changes made here will help make the material holdback process easier.
 - iv. The Committee is investigating the best methods to keep record drawings
 - v. Digital Delivery Method topics being discussed:
 - 1. Digital Utility As-Builts
 - 2. Model as Legal Document
 - 3. Geospatial As-Builts
 - vi. Training ideas for the Tollway
 - 1. Model as a Legal Document
 - 2. ROLL Plots- Designers seem to be aware, but this is largely unheard of on the construction management side of the industry.
- d. Lump Sum Contracting (Sagar Sonar – Kimley Horn)

- i. We are planning to have an introductory meeting with Tollway soon. The discussion is intended to focus on lump sum and other potential payment methods for consideration to benefit Tollway and consultants.
 - e. Alternative Contracting Methods (Jim Shaw – RS&H)
 - i. CMGC presentation / discussion was held on 5/7.
 - 1. Impactful discussion included the following
 - DSE Risk/liability for directed changes/means and methods
 - Insurance requirements
 - DSE contract negotiations – CMGC method includes multiple “cycles” including and up to significant re-work. How will the contract be structured to account for such? Potentially “work not yet approved” buckets.
 - Will contractors hire/need to hire Engineering firms?
 - Concern over multiple board approvals and impact on timeline
 - 2. Further information to be provided by the Tollway
 - 3. Initial CMGC project (Oasis sites) is ongoing
 - ii. Other
 - 1. Tollway DB project continues to move forward
 - 2. Potential ISTHA/IDOT joint “lessons learned” and/or “how to” for teaming and proposals
 - f. Working with the Tollway (Jason Martin – SE3)
 - i. The subcommittee has met twice and developed “Tenets of the Tollway” ideas. These are intended to represent the key considerations that Consultants needs to be aware of when working with the Tollway.
 - ii. We are planning for a workshop for the Fall which will have a Tollway panel, consultant panel, and best practices for SOI submittals and/or a lessons learned case study discussion
 - iii. Right now, the committee is drafting panel discussions topics and questions in preparation.
- 4. “Getting to know the Tollway” – (Fleet & Facilities – Dave Donovan)
 - a. The Fleet & Facilities Department is the second largest within the Tollway, with 220 employees and a \$56M operating budget. The Department manages daily operations and repairs for 180 facilities, oversees maintenance of 2,300 vehicles and machines, and a mobile shop supports radio equipment installation.
 - b. The Department administers more than 110 goods and services contracts and a separate \$30M M&O capital budget funds major repairs and fleet purchases. CURs and DURs are used for facility repairs and facility design, including green initiatives. The Department also manages the Job Order Contracting (JOC) program, which enables rapid response to repair needs.
 - c. Designers are encouraged to keep Fleet & Facilities’ operational needs in mind when developing projects as they are one of the Tollway Customers supported by Engineering.
- 5. Diversity Update (Marlene Vick)
 - a. Over the past six years, the Tollway has paid \$1.6B overall and \$638M in professional services, with 47% DBE participation, a figure that continues to rise.
 - b. Veteran-owned firm participation is at the highest level in Tollway history. In 2025, \$11.7 M was paid to Veteran owned firms.
 - c. The Partnering for Growth (P4G) program added 23 new agreements this year, bringing the total to approximately 265 since inception. Several reverse P4G agreements have resulted in protégés becoming primes.

- d. On June 3, the Tollway will host a “Contracting with Government” event at Governors State University, in University Park, focused on IT and goods/services opportunities.
6. Engineering/Planning Updates (Manar Nashif)
- a. Staff Updates
 - i. Pam Gayles has joined the Planning Department as a Utility Technician and will support training for locates and over-height/over-weight permits.
 - b. Capital Program Updates
 - i. The Tollway remains focused on delivering \$1.2B in 2026 for the Move Illinois and Bridging the Future programs.
 - ii. The first quarter was particularly strong, and additional updates will be presented at the May 21 Board meeting.
 - iii. Planning for the next capital program continues, and details will be shared with ACEC when ready.
 - c. Alternative Project Delivery
 - i. IL 390 project (Design Build) - The Design-Build procurement is progressing, with the RFQ complete, a shortlist issued, and the RFP to shortlisted firms underway.
 - ii. Oasis Redevelopment (CM/GC) – Tollway recently hosted two workshops to discuss the CM/GC approach. Input received during those meetings is being used to shape future steps.
 - d. Upcoming State Fiscal Year Transition
 - i. As June 30 approaches, a temporary pause in payment processing is expected.
 - ii. Consultants were asked to submit invoices as soon as possible; reminders have been posted in Trimble.
 - e. Monthly Project Status Meetings
 - i. Future meetings will include a standing agenda item requesting updates on Mentor Protégé and P4G progress.
 - f. Lessons Learned discussions
 - i. Missing Pay Items for identified work - The Tollway emphasized the importance of identifying all pay items in contract documents, as missing items can significantly disrupt construction and lead to cost challenges.
 - ii. Lessons Learned submitted / Lessons Learned Committee - Risk identification remains a priority, particularly regarding land acquisition, utilities, permitting, and environmental. The Tollway will share internal lessons learned with industry and encourage firms to distribute information broadly within their organizations.
 - iii. Time Extension Request (TER) Submittals - TERs must be submitted promptly. The Tollway has observed delays and expects improvement in coordination between contractors and CMs.
 - g. Professional Services Bulletin Update
 - i. PSB Look Ahead
 - 1. Selections for PSB 26-1 have been made, and negotiations are underway.
 - 2. An updated PSB Look-Ahead will be released soon.
 - ii. Upcoming Opportunities
 - 1. PSB 26-2 is anticipated to include PMO services.

2. PSB 26-3 will include CM services for plaza improvements, CM for I-90 resurfacing, systemwide Materials Engineering, and additional opportunities.

7. Upcoming ACEC Events

- a. June 8 – ACEC Golf Outing
- b. June 16 – Spring Board Meeting
- c. June 18 – IDOT Bike Training
- d. Upcoming – Hydraulic Modeling Training (three sessions)

8. Open Discussion

- a. This was Jason Martin's last meeting as ACEC Tollway Committee Chair. He thanked the Tollway, ACEC, and committee members for their support during his term.
- b. Thank you to Jason Martin for three great years of leadership of this committee.