Illinois Tollway June Update McHenry County Council of Mayors 6/19/2020

Contact: Lauren Platt lplatt@getipass.com

## **Operations**

In an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in the region, the Illinois Tollway temporarily implemented all-electronic tolling in March as a precaution to limit the potential spread of coronavirus to customers, as well as Tollway employees. All Illinois Tollway roadways remain open to traffic; however, mainline toll plazas, automatic toll payment machines, and both our customer call center and in-person customer service centers are currently offline.

The Tollway's maintenance staff, incident management personnel and HELP truck drivers are on duty to assist travelers, and toll collection has been entirely handled via I-PASS, E-ZPass and through the Tollway's online payment portal. All aspects of basic I-PASS account management, as well as cash customers' payment of unpaid tolls, can be done online at <a href="https://www.getipass.com">www.getipass.com</a>. In addition, the tollway is currently holding the issuance of toll violations as well as the escalation of current notices.

In addition, the Tollway's Board of Directors has continued to meet virtually each month to keep all business and construction activity moving. At this time, we are continuing with our anticipated 2020 capital program spending, and our construction season is proceeding as planned.

Since the stay at home order began, passenger volume has swung widely, averaging 55% lower than expected during the first portion of the COVID-19 period. Similarly, commercial traffic has dropped as low as 20% below forecasted. And while there has been improvement, it is still too early to tell how the various phases of our recovery will impact traffic.

The net effect of this reduction in traffic has been a reduction in projected revenue of \$73 million through the end of April. The long-term impact on the agency is entirely contingent on the duration and economic impact of the pandemic; and with over 50% of revenue coming from commercial vehicles, the significance will further depend on a strong rebound in commercial traffic.

## Construction

Across the nation, highway construction continues as an essential infrastructure activity, and Illinois is no different. The Tollway has proceeded with all construction projects as well as roadway maintenance and repair work systemwide. With safety as a top priority, the agency has worked closely with contractors to ensure the proper safety precautions

have been taken to protect workers engaged in outdoor construction activities along our system.

Tollway contractors and consultants continuing their work are always required to have comprehensive safety plans in place, and those plans have been updated to account for the safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **McHenry County construction projects:**

• At the new Illinois Route 23 Interchange - On Harmony Road at Illinois Route 23, traffic is shifted into the eastbound lanes for work to rebuild the westbound lanes. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer.