



# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY SEEKS TO TEST CONNECTED VEHICLES ON NEW JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90)**

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors today agreed to apply to participate in a federal pilot program to test new connected vehicle technology that would allow cars and trucks to share real-time information about traffic congestion and roadway conditions to help reduce crashes.

If awarded, the partnership will allow the federal government contractor, CDM Smith Federal – a subsidiary of the Tollway’s Traffic Engineer, to test the new technology on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), which is being rebuilt with new, flexible infrastructure to accommodate the latest intelligent transportation systems (ITS) features.

“This new technology has the potential to produce tremendous benefits for drivers,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “By taking a leading role in testing, the Illinois Tollway can be among the first transportation agencies in the nation to bring the safety advances that result from this program to its customers.”

The federal government is conducting the pilot program to encourage the testing and development of connected vehicle technology that allows vehicles to collect roadway and traffic information in real time and then wirelessly transmit it to other vehicles equipped with the technology. Connected vehicle technology could ultimately provide advance warning to drivers to slow down before slippery pavement, congested areas or accidents that are blocking traffic lanes.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding contracts ranging from \$2 million to \$20 million to partnerships involved in testing the new technology. The pilot project is expected to initially test the technology on Illinois Tollway vehicles, as well as buses and commercial fleet vehicles that agree to participate.

The Illinois Tollway is committed to investing in advanced technology, including constructing a 16-mile “smart corridor” on I-90 between the Kennedy Expressway and Barrington Road that will use active traffic management features to provide real-time information to drivers using a network of cameras, sensors and overhead electronic gantries.

The smart corridor is part of the Tollway’s \$2.5 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project, which will deliver a 21st century, state-of-the-art corridor linking Rockford to O’Hare International Airport. The project encompasses 62 miles and features six reconstructed and expanded lanes from Randall Road to I-39 near Rockford completed in 2014 and reconstruction and expansion to eight lanes from the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to Randall Road in Elgin to be completed in 2016. The new I-90 will also feature significant improvements to seven interchanges and bus on shoulder service along the eastern segment in partnership with Pace.

Nationwide, the Illinois Tollway is one of only five roadway agencies that is also a federally affiliated test bed for connected vehicle technology.

The Tollway and CDM Smith Federal expect to submit their final proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation next month. Development and testing of connected vehicle technology could begin along I-90 as soon as 2017.

**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 286 miles of interstate tollways 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) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

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