



MEMORANDUM

To: Ingrid Velkme, Village Manager, Western Springs **Date:** 1/8/2018
From: Kevin Artl, Chief Operating Officer, Illinois Tollway
Re: **Central Tri-State Reconstruction Project Coordination**

Purpose of Memo

The Tollway has plans to reconstruct and widen the Central Tri-State. While this is a sizeable regional improvement for Tollway customers, understandably these plans can be concerning to neighbors adjacent to the Tollway. The purpose of this memo is to provide a general summary of Tollway's plans as it relates to Western Springs and to address concerns that have been expressed by the Village.

Project Summary

In order to address current and future congestion, the Central Tri-State is proposed to accommodate 6 lanes and a wide inside shoulder in each direction from just north of I-55 to just south of I-88. In addition to addressing congestion, Tollway's project proposes improvements to address flooding/drainage and to provide regional storm water solutions based on feedback from local municipalities.

To achieve these improvements, the following are aspects that may require on-going coordination between the Tollway and the Village:

- Tollway will need to acquire additional right-of-way (vacant parcels and strips of land) to accommodate the proposed improvements.
- The existing pedestrian bridge located at Maple Street will need to be elevated to provide proper vertical clearance below.
- The BNSF Railroad Bridge will need to be reconstructed and lengthened to accommodate the new width of Tollway's roadway. (Specifics are outlined in a separate memo.)
- The pavilion portion of the Hinsdale Oasis will likewise need to be taken down to accommodate the new width of Tollway's roadway.

The recommended improvement maintains the existing Tollway centerline between 55th Street and Ogden Avenue.



Concerns Expressed by the Village

Will any homes in Western Springs be displaced due to the Tollway's project?

No. The Tollway has identified a plan that will allow the project to avoid any displacements in Western Springs. The proposed additional right-of-way needed by the project includes vacant parcels and strips of land. Specifically, in the Commonwealth Area, the current plan proposes that a strip of land be purchased from the HOA in order to relocate a ditch and to provide access for occasional maintenance (similar to ComEd accessing powerlines located in backyards). This proposed plan would also move noise walls **6-12 feet farther away from residences** than from their current location. Through the Design Phase of the project, as more detailed information becomes available, coordination with the Village and property owners will explore opportunities to reduce and mitigate for any impacts related to these needs. If the Tollway is not able to acquire a strip of land from the HOA, proposed drainage will be drastically confined, drainage benefits reduced, and maintenance of the drainage way will be challenging.

Are there land needs between the public works facility and Ogden Avenue

Yes. The Tollway needs to acquire strips of land in the area between the public works facility and Ogden Avenue to accommodate the recommended improvement. During the design phase, the Tollway will work with community and property owners in this area to refine design solutions to mitigate impacts to residential properties where possible.

Can the Tollway's project be designed to avoid need for additional right-of-way?

Should the Tollway adopt a design that will dramatically reduce the project's right-of-way needs, proposed benefits related to storm water drainage will be reduced and on-going maintenance of drainage will be challenging. Should maintenance issues arise, in order to address the issue, the Tollway would likely need to gain access through residential property anyways. The current proposed plan provides a long-term, holistic solution for both roadway and local improvements.

Can the Tollway consider other alternatives related to the pedestrian bridge improvement?

Yes, the Tollway is willing to explore alternative options that take into consideration concerns from both Western Springs and Hinsdale.



Next Steps

Hopefully, this memo more clearly outlines some of the internal discussions that the Tollway and the Village have had recently about the project. Our next steps would include outreach to potentially impacted property owners. Within the next couple of weeks, in coordination with municipal officials, we will be advancing this outreach in other villages along the corridor. We are eager to hear from you as to how and when you think it best to begin coordination with property owners in Western Springs. Should you or members of your Board have any further questions, we would be happy to address them.