



President's Corner
April 2019

Earlier this year, with the approval of the Illinois House and Senate, Governor Pritzker took the unusual step of terminating the appointments of the entire Illinois Tollway Board of Directors and appointing nine new directors in their place. I was appointed as one of the nine, and am honored to serve in this capacity. The Tollway Board of Directors is comprised of five Democrats, three Republicans and one Independent - me. I am grateful to Governor Pritzker for this vote of confidence, and to House Leader Durkin for his support.

Including Governor Pritzker and the Secretary of Transportation, who serve as ex-officio members, the Tollway has an 11-member board altogether. The board sets policy for the operation, maintenance, and construction of roadways. You can read the current Illinois Tollway Director profiles at: <https://www.illinoistollway.com/about/board-information#BoardProfiles> .

With the I-294 central corridor expansion project planned to extend into 2026, it will be beneficial to have local municipal representation on the Tollway board – not only for Western Springs, but for all of the communities located along and near the Tollway, from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street. At its last meeting, the Tollway board approved a substantial contract to rebuild the Mile Long Bridge. This work will begin by building out a new northbound bridge alongside the existing bridge. Traffic will not be diverted until the entire new northbound bridge is complete. Construction will continue in the same manner on the southbound bridge, thus ensuring the least disruption to the traveling public.

There are many challenges facing the Tollway beyond the central corridor expansion project, and I look forward to working with the other board members and senior staff to promote transparency and accountability, forge greater collaboration with other regional transportation partners, and increase resilience to environmental impacts, among other issues. It is important that we address current problems facing our road system, but that we also look ahead to the future in order to maintain the Tollway Authority's position as a leading agency in the region's vital transportation network. I am pleased to have a seat at the table, and to add my voice to the important conversations that will take place.

I encourage all residents to take an active interest in the activities of the Tollway. Board meetings generally take place on the third Thursday of each month, and are open to the public. The schedule for meetings can be found at <https://www.illinoistollway.com/about/board-information#Schedule>. Meetings are broadcast via live webcast, and previous meetings can also be viewed online at: <https://www.illinoistollway.com/about/board-information#Webcast%20Information> .

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Village President