



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Dave Bayless
(312) 533-0059

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Village of Hinsdale asks Illinois Tollway Authority to delay rushed vote on \$4 billion I-294 expansion

Hinsdale, IL – On the eve of a major vote by the Illinois Tollway Authority on a \$4 billion plan to reconstruct a stretch of I-294, Hinsdale Village President Tom Cauley has asked the Illinois Tollway Authority board to delay its decision so the public has more time to thoroughly review the plan and its impacts on local communities.

In a letter to Illinois Tollway Authority Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom, Village President Cauley questioned why the board was moving so quickly on the project and why specific information justifying the need for the project has not been shared with the public. The plan was introduced and voted on by the Tollway's Customer Service and Planning Committee just last Monday. The plan is up for a vote at tomorrow's Illinois Tollway Authority Board meeting.

In the letter, which was also shared with the full Illinois Tollway Authority Board, Village President Cauley wrote:

At the public meeting at the Hinsdale Oasis on April 24 – just hours after the Customer Service and Planning Committee had voted to recommend the widening of I-294 – the Tollway Authority represented that its plans to widen I-294 are predicated upon anticipated future traffic volumes on I-294. Indeed, the recommendations for widening I-294 are supposedly based upon projected traffic volumes through the year 2040. Yet, we have seen no information that supports the Tollway Authority's representations concerning increased traffic volume by 2040. As far as we can tell, there is absolutely no support anywhere for the Tollway Authority's representations to the public, and the Board, that traffic volumes on I-294 will increase significantly by 2040.

The Village and many of its residents are concerned that the plan to widen I-294 could encroach upon open spaces, including parks, and on residential property. It has asked the Tollway Authority to weigh the following requests as the plan moves forward:

- Tollway sound walls should remain where they are today and not be moved to abut private homeowners' property or take up open spaces or parkland.
- Noise levels will get no worse than they are currently or will be decreased.
- The temporary railroad tracks (shoo-fly) in place during the railroad bridge construction over I-294 will not become permanent, and
- The sales tax revenue the Village of Hinsdale receives from the oasis will not decrease.

“A project of this scale and scope, with significant, potential impacts on communities, needs a more thorough vetting. It is our hope the Tollway will table a vote and engage residents and taxpayers in a more upfront, forthright and substantive conversation,” said Village President Cauley. “A major, \$4 billion plan was introduced at the committee level and will likely be approved by the full board in the span of just over 72 hours. We’d like to know why this is being rammed through with little or no opportunity for the public to review the plans and offer input.”

Hinsdale Village President Tom Cauley is available to speak with reporters regarding this matter. He can be reached directly at 312-853-7076.

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