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## Questions and Answers

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### **When did the Village first know about the Tollway Authority's proposed plans?**

Tollway officials began meeting with the Village in 2015. However, it was not until November 2016 and December 2016 that it became evident that the Tollway plans included potential widening through Hinsdale. The Village met with Tollway Chairman Robert Schillerstrom to review its understanding of the potential project on February 6, 2017. After Chairman Schillerstrom said he could not say that I-294 would not be widened, Village officials planned a public information meeting for February 27.

### **Did the Village respond to Mr. Schillerstrom's statement about potential widening?**

In response to potential widening the Village proposed the following to Mr. Schillerstrom:

- ***Do not widen I-294 at all.*** Mr. Schillerstrom's response was, in effect, that was not an option.
- ***Start the widening of I-294 north of Hinsdale.*** Mr. Schillerstrom responded that was not a practical solution.
- ***Move the center line of I-294 through Hinsdale to the east, because there are fewer residences and parks on the Western Springs side of I-294.*** Mr. Schillerstrom said that was a possibility and would look into it.
- **Village President Tom Cauley asked Mr. Schillerstrom if there were other options.** Mr. Schillerstrom responded that he could not think of any.
- **The Village described the devastating effect widening I-294 into Hinsdale would have on residential property, Village parks and the Hinsdale Oasis. Mr. Schillerstrom's only response was "I know there will be a lot of unhappy people."**

### **Who sits on the Tollway Authority Board and how does it derive its authority?**

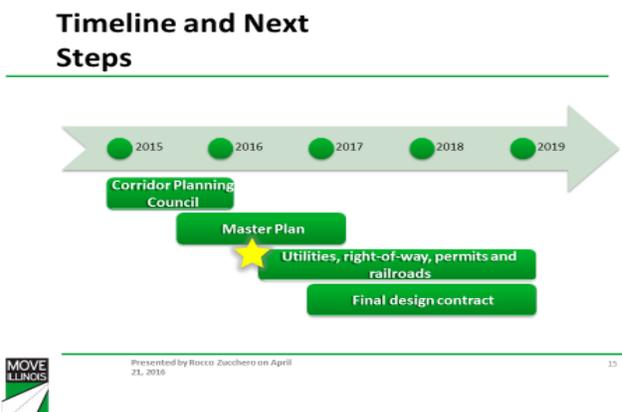
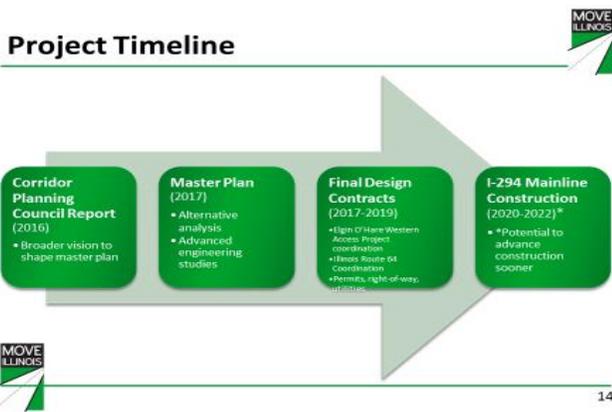
The State of Illinois through 605 ILCS 10 Toll Highway Act creates the administrative agency of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. The Tollway Authority has an 11-member board, including Governor Bruce Rauner and Secretary of Transportation Randall S. Blankenhorn, who serve as ex-officio members. The Chairman and Directors are appointed by the Governor and serve four-year terms; no more than five of the members may be from one political party. The Board of Directors sets policy for the operation, maintenance and construction of the roadways.

**What are the issues the Tollway is trying to address?**

The Tollway has identified congestion, access, flooding and freight as high priorities that need to be addressed as part of this project.

**When will the potential construction start?**

The final plans for the I-294 project are not known. The timelines below were taken from the Tollway website. The timelines clearly show that key decisions will be made in 2017. The purpose of the information campaign is so that the residents can voice their concerns prior to any final action being taken by the Tollway Authority.



**What is the impact to homeowners?**

If I-294 is expanded, each lane added could potentially move the existing sound wall an additional 12 to 15 feet closer toward the homes of Hinsdale residents and potentially eliminate many backyards.

**What is the impact to the parks?**

The potential I-294 expansion could also eliminate valuable park space in Peirce, Veeck, Woodland and Brook parks as the sound wall moving 12 to 15 feet west potentially renders the parks unusable for up to three years due to construction adversely impacting the baseball, softball, soccer and football fields.

**BNSF Reconstruction:** temporary train tracks built to accommodate the BNSF train traffic while the railroad bridge is being rebuilt to accommodate the expansion of up to six lanes of traffic could make much of Veeck Park unusable.

**What is the impact to the environment?**

Adding lanes to the I-294 could increase the noise levels due to increased truck and vehicle traffic as adding capacity to highways actually generates additional travel increasing the noise and air pollution.

**What is the impact to the Village revenues?**

The potential I-294 expansion would result in the loss of the tax revenue generated at the Hinsdale Oasis of approximately \$550,000 in revenues (representing about 11% of the Village's combined Sales Tax and Food and Beverage Tax receipts). Loss of that revenue could jeopardize the Village's operating budget needed to fix the Village roads and sewers.

**Why can't Hinsdale say "no" and stop any plans the Tollway proposes that would adversely impact Hinsdale?**

The Tollway Authority has the ability to use Eminent Domain to initiate "quick take" or condemnation procedures. Generally, the Tollway Authority also has the authority to take the land, even if the land is being used by the municipality. All that is required is approval of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

**How can the Tollway take land and move sound walls without Hinsdale's permission?**

The Tollway Authority has suggested that the goal of any potential expansion would be to use its easements or right of way (ROW). However, many of the Tollway's easements and ROWs are very close to Hinsdale homes and parks.

**Can the Village sue the Tollway to stop their plans?**

While the Village has researched this issue, the Village is not aware of any viable legal claim it can bring against the Tollway under the Eminent Domain Act.

**Can the Village sue the Tollway Authority on behalf of residents whose property may have lost value as a result of the Tollway expansion?**

No, as such a lawsuit would violate the Illinois Constitution. The Village cannot use public funds for a private purpose. Such a lawsuit would only impact a few individual residents for their own personal property values, and not the public at large.

**What can I do?**

Stay informed, get involved in the conversation and become involved:



**Update on the Tri-State  
Potential Widening of I-294 Process  
Questions and Answers**

- Voice your opinion at [www.villageofhinsdale.org/updateonthetristate](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/updateonthetristate) by filling out opposition forms that are sent to the Governor's Office and the Tollway Authority and sign up for the Village's e-news.
- Join the Village's Ad Hoc Tollway Advisory Committee with the kick off meeting **Thursday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m.** at Hinsdale Middle School.
- Attend important Tollway Authority public meetings as they are announced and take advantage of the public comment opportunity at these meetings:

**March 13 at 10:30 a.m. and March 23 at 9:00 a.m.  
2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL**

- Email Tollway Board members and voice your opposition:
  - Chairman - [Bob Schillerstrom](mailto:bobs@getipass.com) at bobs@getipass.com
  - Director - [James Banks](mailto:jamesb@getipass.com) at jamesb@getipass.com
  - Director - [Corey Brooks](mailto:coreyb@getipass.com) at coreyb@getipass.com
  - Director - [Earl Dotson Jr .](mailto:earld@getipass.com) at earld@getipass.com
  - Director - [Joseph Gomez](mailto:josephg@getipass.com) at josephg@getipass.com
  - Director - [David Gonzalez](mailto:davidg@getipass.com) at davidg@getipass.com
  - Director - [Craig Johnson](mailto:craigj@getipass.com) at craigj@getipass.com
  - Director - [James Sweeney](mailto:james@getipass.com) at james@getipass.com
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- Visit the Tollway Authority website at :  
<https://www.illinoistollway.com/outreach/projects-in-your-community?inheritRedirect=true>.