

Village of Hinsdale Delivers Resolution to Illinois Tollway Authority Opposing Widening of I-294

Village officials seek commitment from Authority to share information, involve residents in decision-making process

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hinsdale, IL — Hinsdale residents, elected officials and staff members today appeared before an Illinois Tollway Authority committee today to deliver a resolution voicing the community's opposition to the proposed plan to widen a stretch of I-294 near Hinsdale.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously by the Hinsdale Village Board on March 7, spells out numerous, lasting impacts that the proposed widening project would have on Hinsdale residents, homeowners and businesses.

The resolution says, in part: "Whereas, the proposed I-294 tollway expansion would dramatically impact Hinsdale property values, increase noise and air pollution due to increased truck traffic caused by adding more toll lanes, destroy Village parks, and cause serious adverse financial consequences to the Village."

Village President Tom Cauley who presented the Village Board's resolution to the Tollway Authority Committee, was joined by 17 Hinsdale residents at the Illinois Tollway Authority's Customer Service and Planning Committee on Monday. President Cauley also questioned the need for the \$1.7 billion dollar expansion project. Trustee Laura LaPlaca presented a petition to Chairman Schillerstrom signed by 500 residents opposing the potential widening of I-294. Residents also spoke up during the public comment section of the meeting regarding their concerns about the project.

President Cauley also asked for the Illinois Tollway Authority's commitment to engaging in a robust effort to provide information, gather community input and involve residents and other stakeholders in the decision-making process.

"Our residents are, understandably, very concerned about the impact this potential project may have on our community," said President Cauley. "They are asking good questions about the impacts, the timeframe, and about the Authority's decision-making process. I am hopeful the Authority can make a commitment to an open, transparent process and a robust effort to provide information, gather input and involve residents and other stakeholders in the decision-making process."

Two weeks ago, the Village hosted a special meeting to provide information to residents about the proposed widening project. More than 150 residents attended that meeting. And just last week, Hinsdale hosted a public meeting to seat an ad hoc advisory committee comprised of volunteers that will begin work to build broader support to oppose the proposed project.

“Our residents are engaged, energized and eager to have their voices heard on what has rapidly become a major issue here in Hinsdale,” said President Cauley. “We’re looking forward to working with them and with the Authority to have an honest, fact-based dialogue about this project and the ramifications it can have on our quality of life, our economy and our community.”

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