



19 East Chicago Avenue  
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521  
(630) 789-7000  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org)

February 7, 2017

Re: The Tollway Authority Plan to Widen I-294

Dear Hinsdale Resident:

On February 6, 2017, I met with Bob Schillerstrom, Chairman of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (the "Tollway Authority") concerning the Tollway Authority's plan to widen I-294 through Hinsdale. Mr. Schillerstrom indicated that the Tollway Authority continues to seriously consider a plan to widen I-294 through Hinsdale, and stated that the final decision on the widening of I-294 will be made within the next six months.

I explained to Mr. Schillerstrom the devastating impact that widening I-294 would have on residential properties in the Woodlands and in other neighborhoods in Hinsdale. A slice of residents' backyards will be taken for the expansion of I-294, and the noise from I-294 will increase significantly as more truck traffic uses I-294 -- which is one of the stated goals of the proposed expansion project. Not only that, we stand to lose precious park land as a result of the expansion of I-294, which would involve the loss of hundreds of mature trees, soccer fields and baseball fields. Finally, the expansion of I-294 would eliminate the Hinsdale Oasis, which accounts for \$540,000 of the Village's tax revenues, thereby crippling the Village's infrastructure improvement program. Mr. Schillerstrom's reaction to all of these concerns was that "there will no doubt be some unhappy people" as a result of an expansion of I-294.

#### THE TOLLWAY EXPANSION WILL HURT HINSDALE PROPERTY VALUES.

We must stop the Tollway Authority from expanding I-294 into Hinsdale backyards and parks. If I-294 is expanded to accommodate one additional lane in each direction, the sound wall would be moved 12 to 15-feet further west, cutting into backyards all along I-294 in Hinsdale. And, if I-294 is expanded to accommodate two additional lanes in each direction (which Mr. Schillerstrom stated was "less likely" but still "on the table"), the sound wall would be moved 24 to 30-feet further west, virtually eliminating many backyards. Moreover, one of the Tollway Authority's stated rationale for expanding I-294 -- to accommodate more truck traffic on the toll road -- will plainly increase the noise levels from I-294, and will no doubt negatively impact property values throughout the eastern portion of Hinsdale.

#### THE TOLLWAY EXPANSION WILL DESTROY OUR PARKS.

The I-294 expansion would also eliminate much of the Village's park land along I-294. Much of Woodland Park will be taken, and the beautiful mature trees that currently hide the I-294 sound wall will be cut down to make way for the expansion and the

relocation of the sound wall 12 to 15-feet (or 24 to 30-feet) further west. In addition, much of Brook Park, where we have soccer and Falcon football fields would be eliminated. And the temporary train tracks built to accommodate the BNSF train traffic while the railroad bridge is being rebuilt to accommodate the expansion would make much of Veeck Park unusable -- including the Veeck Park soccer fields -- for at least several years, and possibly permanently. Moreover, we would lose two of the little league baseball fields in Peirce Park.

THE TOLLWAY EXPANSION WOULD HURT THE VILLAGE FINANCIALLY.

Furthermore, the loss of the Hinsdale Oasis due to the expansion of I-294 would have serious negative consequences to the Village. Currently, the Village receives approximately \$540,000 in tax revenue (representing about 11% of our combined Sales Tax and Food and Beverage Tax receipts) from the Hinsdale Oasis. Loss of that revenue would jeopardize a significant portion of our budget for fixing our roads and sewers.

WE MUST OPPOSE THE WIDENING OF I-294, AND WE MUST DO IT NOW.

The Tollway Authority is currently actively considering plans to widen I-294 by adding one or two lanes in each direction, and Mr. Schillerstrom stated that the Tollway Authority will reach a final decision within the next six months. Once that plan is finalized, it will be too late to stop it. Currently, we are organizing opposition to the expansion of I-294, and are scheduling a community information meeting at the Memorial Building on **February 27 at 7:00 PM** to discuss the proposed expansion project. We have invited Mr. Schillerstrom, or some other senior official at the Tollway Authority, to attend that meeting. In the meantime, I invite all residents to mail Mr. Schillerstrom (and to copy me on your correspondence) at the following address to voice your opposition to the widening of I-294 through Hinsdale:

Mr. Schillerstrom  
Chair  
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority  
2700 Ogden Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Cauley  
Hinsdale Village President