

## NOTES FROM APRIL 7, 2017, MEETING WITH TOLLWAY OFFICIALS

The meeting started at 2:45 p.m.

- On Friday, April 7, 2017, Mayor Straub, Village Administrator Stricker, Community Development Director Doug Pollock and Public Works Director David Preissig met with Rocco Zuccherro, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning, and Aimee Lee, Sr. Manager of Strategic Planning and Programming, to discuss the Tollway's plans concerning I-294.
- Mr. Zuccherro has worked for the Tollway for over 10 years and takes resident issues and concerns seriously. He stated that he has met with almost all of the 29 communities from Rosemont on the north all the way to Oak Lawn/Hickory Hills on the south, where communities border the Tollway and each has its own individual concerns.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that the Tollway Authority is in the process of implementing their "Move Illinois" program, a \$12 billion effort to upgrade the Tollway system throughout Illinois. He stated that \$2 billion dollars has been set aside for the reconstruction of I-294 from Balmoral Drive to 95<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that the current plans are simply to take out the existing pavement and replace it. Before this can occur, both the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge in Hinsdale/Western Springs and the Mile-Long Bridge in Oak Lawn must be reconstructed.
- Mr. Zuccherro indicated that it is the Tollway Staff that has looked at the possibility of developing a plan to address future needs of the Tollway, including:
  - a. congestion issues
  - b. stormwater-related issues
  - c. freight issues
  - d. access issues
  - e. transit accommodations
  - f. truck parking
- Mr. Zuccherro indicated that this stretch of I-294 carries the most amount of traffic and the most amount of congestion on the entire Tollway system and that traffic studies have indicated that the Tollway is not performing as it should. As an example, he stated that the I-55/I-294 interchange backs up every day, as well as the I-294/I-290 interchange.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that truckers avoid I-294, due to its congestion, thereby clogging up Route 83, LaGrange Road and other roads.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that, in his discussions with other 29 communities, he had heard a lot about the need for improved access and additional interchanges throughout the system.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that, along with the needs and concerns of residents, he must also pay attention to the needs and concerns of the trucking industry, where trucks make up 12% of traffic, but pay for 40% of all Tollway-related revenues.

- Mr. Zuccherro stated that the Tollway is in the process of completing its Master Plan for I-294, looking at alternative solutions to solve problems now and in the future and what it will cost.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that Tollway Staff will begin to lay out their recommendations concerning:
  - a. adding additional capacity
  - b. increasing average speed
  - c. providing for a flex lane for busses only to be located on the inside shoulder
  - d. active lane management proposals that will allow for the opening and closing of lanes
  - e. providing local information and advisories
  - f. future planning for autonomous vehicles
  - g. possible reconfiguration/improvement to the I-294/I-290 ramps, as well as the I-55/I-294 ramps
  - h. consider additional new interchanges in Northlake on 88<sup>th</sup> Street and Archer, and off of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Roosevelt Road and/or 31<sup>st</sup> Street
- Mr. Zuccherro indicated that Staff will be making recommendations concerning these issues at their Customer Service and Planning Committee meeting on Monday, April 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the Tollway offices. **This meeting date has subsequently been change to Monday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m.** He stated that any recommendations from this Committee will be forwarded to the regular Board meeting to be held on Thursday, April 27, at 9:00 a.m.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING THE HINSDALE OASIS

- Mr. Zuccherro stated that the lease for the Hinsdale Oasis is up as of 2027, but that, if any widening were to occur prior to that time, the Oasis would have to be removed and the tollway would have to buy out the leases.
- Village Administrator Stricker explained the Village's position as far as the Oasis is concerned, which was to eliminate it in its entirety. Mr. Zuccherro suggested that the communities of Hinsdale, Burr Ridge and Western Springs should come together at some point in the future to talk about the future of the Oasis.
- Mr. Zuccherro stated that that Oasis does provide a great benefit for not only local commuters, but for long-distance travelers and truck drivers.

- Mr. Zuccherro stated that the Hinsdale Oasis sells the most diesel fuel on the entire Tollway system.
- Mayor Straub reiterated the Village's position that we would like to see the Oasis eliminated. However, he stated that, if somehow a new building is built in the future, he would suggest that the building be placed closer up against the residents to shield them from the noise, fumes, lights, etc., from the trucks and other vehicles.
- Mayor Straub reiterated the Village's position that, if the Oasis is reconstructed, it be renamed and that both the Villages of Burr Ridge and Western Springs should benefit from future revenues that are generated.
- Mayor Straub mentioned that a possible alternative site for a truck rest stop could be the vacant industrial-zoned parcel of land adjacent to the Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District. Mr. Zuccherro agreed to look at this possibility.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING VILLAGE CONCERNS

- At this point in the discussion, the Village Administrator outlined each and every one of the Village's concerns contained in the March 15, 2017, letter to Chairperson Schillerstrom, especially as it related to the condition of the existing noise walls and the need to inspect them for wear and tear and to conduct noise studies to determine if they should be replaced and heightened, even if there is no actual widening of the Tollway. Mr. Zuccherro stated that he was familiar with the letter and its contents and that the wall would be inspected as part of the engineering study. He stated that he could not respond to any of the bullet points due to the fact that the impacts of any potential widening has yet to be studied and, therefore, could not comment on where any potential widening would occur. He did say that the Tollway always looks to minimize the impact on residents.

#### MEETING CONCLUSION

- Community Development Director and Public Works Director provided details of the Village's long-standing plans to extend 71st Street to Wolf Road. The Village has completed preliminary engineering, IDOT design approval, and environmental clearances. This project would improve access for our businesses and residents, increase access to the Tollway at its current toll booth ramp, and provide a transit connection from the Pace park-n-ride lot.
- In response to a question from the Village Administrator, Mr. Zuccherro stated that work will begin on the Tollway sometime in the year 2020, with the reconstruction of bridges, and that it could be at least a couple of years before construction on the mainline of the Tollway would begin.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.