



From: Illinois Tollway

Date: March 15, 2019

Subject: Stormwater and Drainage

The Illinois Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Corridor Planning Council comprised of leadership from transportation and transit planning agencies, Cook and DuPage counties, several councils of mayors, business leaders and representatives from the freight industry, economic development and environmental interests, worked collaboratively to help create a broad regional vision for the future of the Central Tri-State corridor. One of the council's top priorities was to improve stormwater management and reduce flooding along the corridor. The Tollway has been diligently working to design the Central Tri-State Tollway Project and keep drainage at the forefront of the effort. The Tollway is working with the municipalities and counties throughout the project area to evaluate opportunities to address the goals of improving stormwater management and drainage.

The Illinois Tollway has long recognized the regional effects of flooding and importance of managing stormwater in relation to its roadways. Drainage design criteria and guidelines were established to ensure that all new runoff generated by the project is detained within the Tollway's right-of-way. The guidelines also ensure the release of stormwater runoff is done so in a controlled manner that meets current release rates. Further, the drainage design criteria and guidelines were created to at a minimum meet, if not exceed, county and municipal requirements. The Tollway approaches drainage from both a quality and quantity perspective. Drainage improvements are an integral part of roadway design and often result in right-of-way acquisition to ensure appropriate accommodations are provided. Land acquisition necessary for project drainage was already included in the land needs shared with communities and homeowners.

Quantity. The Central Tri-State Tollway's design will address aspects of stormwater runoff quantity; requiring adherence to existing drainage patterns along with prohibiting an increase in stormwater runoff release rates and the ponding of water on adjacent properties. A key aspect of meeting these requirements is achieved through the use of stormwater detention facilities. These facilities will capture runoff and hold water coming from roadway to control the rate at which water is released from stormwater outlets. The Tollway is also pursuing opportunities to improve detention systems through the design of regional detention basins that can assist in reducing flooding in the general project area. To achieve this, the Tollway is working with the counties and municipalities to identify flood-prone areas and opportunities where additional detention volume can be achieved.

Quality. The Central Tri-State Tollway's design will also address runoff water quality for pollutants, such as metals, hydrocarbons and suspended sediments. A water quality volume that meets county ordinances has been established for the project. This volume of stormwater runoff will be captured and treated for the purpose of removing the majority of stormwater pollutants before entering local waterway systems. Where possible, the Tollway will install natural basins, which help remove pollutants from stormwater. Further, the Tollway will be securing a Section 401 Clean Water Act certification for the project. This is a water quality

permit that is issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and provides certification that the project meets all applicable water quality standards and does not degrade the waters of the state.

The Illinois Tollway remains committed to working with local partners in the pursuit of improving drainage, reducing flooding and enhancing water quality throughout the project corridor. Improvements along the corridor, in addition to larger regional projects, are being pursued. Watersheds and waterways within the project area include Addison Creek, I&M Canal, Silver Creek, Des Plaines River, Lower Salt Creek, Lucas Ditch, 79th Street, Justice Ditch, Salt Creek, Crystal Creek, Flagg Creek and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The Tollway's drainage design criteria and guidelines are a commitment to meet, if not exceed, county and municipal requirements throughout the project area. The Tollway is finalizing the stormwater detention design for the corridor and expects completion by the end of 2019. The Illinois Tollway welcomes comments and suggestions to the design throughout the plan review process.

