

## **IRTBA Supports Expansion of the Tri-State**

*Press Release*

April 20, 2017



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The Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) strongly supports improvements to the Central Tri-State (I-294) currently under Tollway consideration. The IRTBA serves as the voice for the transportation design and construction industry across the State. Illinois is the transportation crossroads of our nation. Our transportation network provides the foundation needed to keep businesses and families moving every single day -- to get to and from work or school; to bring families together; and to move goods and services in and out of our state. We are consistent advocates for congestion relief, safety, reliability, innovation, and promoting future growth.

Through the *Move Illinois* Program, the Illinois Tollway budgeted \$1.9 billion to repair the 22-mile corridor. Simply patching the crumbling infrastructure, however, does not solve the problems with congestion on the Tri-State. We have to invest in our roads for the 21st century and beyond. The proposed project would allow for a safer, more efficient roadway that nearly 400,000 vehicles travel daily.

The proposed project would create 43,000 jobs, reduce travel times by as much as 55 percent, and provide local congestion relief as well. This project would allow local agencies to partner to address safety, noise, flooding, and aesthetic issues that surround the neighboring communities near the Tri-State.

In November, nearly 80 percent of Illinois voters said that transportation is so important that its funding should be constitutionally protected. The people understand that wise investments in transportation are needed to maintain our competitiveness and quality of life. The Tri-State is a key investment that we must not neglect. Let's get to work.