



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 19, 2017

CONTACT:
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199
Gianna Urgo 312.814.4693

I-55 Managed Lane Project in Hands of General Assembly; Millions in Private Investment, Jobs, Congestion at Stake

*-Joint resolution refiled today-
--Deadline looms to pursue project as P3 that would invest \$400 million in
infrastructure, local economy--*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today the refileing of the joint resolution to advance the I-55 Managed Lane project as a possible public-private partnership (P3) that would invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Illinois infrastructure at minimal cost to taxpayers, create thousands of jobs and reduce congestion in one of the state’s critical travel corridors. In order to keep the project on track and the procurement process alive, the resolution must be passed by the General Assembly in the next few weeks.

“Without the passage of the joint resolution, the I-55 Managed Lane project will be shelved and a tremendous opportunity to rebuild a key piece of our transportation system will be lost,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “Too much is at stake for continued inaction. This project enjoys widespread support and will help keep Illinois as the transportation hub of North America.”

Today’s joint resolution was filed by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin and Sen. Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

“Heavy congestion along I-55 at all hours of day and night is frustrating and a real safety concern for drivers heading in and out of Chicago,” Durkin said. “This resolution gives IDOT the authority to work with private partners to develop and build a managed car lane for the Stevenson Expressway that improves travel times for drivers while protecting Illinois taxpayers.”

The managed lane project cannot be accomplished using traditional financing and existing revenues. Construction for the project is estimated at more than \$400 million over two years. In exchange for private investment in the project, possible toll revenues and P3 financing sources would be available to pay for construction, operation, and maintenance costs.

“This region has seen explosive growth in the past decade, but that has increased traffic on the Stevenson,” Sandoval said. “Allowing IDOT to explore a public-private partnership will be a

win for taxpayers and drivers. I'm committed to find new ways to relieve congestion on this important corridor for Illinois.”

The project would add a tolled express lane in both directions to the expressway’s existing median between Interstate 355 and Interstate 90/94, reducing congestion and making travel throughout the region more efficient. The 25-mile stretch accommodates 170,000 vehicles a day, with about 15 percent trucks, making it one of the most important commuting and freight corridors in the state.

There has been significant interest in the project from local and international firms, with 17 interviews with IDOT in response to a formal Request for Information (RFI) that was filed in the fall. The enthusiastic response from project developers further demonstrates the value in the project as well as the strong desire from firms to work with Illinois in creating a plan to save taxpayers time and money.

More information on the project can be found at www.i55managedlaneproject.org.

#