



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
PAT QUINN

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**Contact**

Press Line: (312) 814-3158

Brooke Anderson [Brooke.Anderson@illinois.gov](mailto:Brooke.Anderson@illinois.gov)

Grant Klinzman [Grant.Klinzman@illinois.gov](mailto:Grant.Klinzman@illinois.gov)

## **Governor Quinn Statement on Passage of Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project Resolution**

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Pat Quinn today issued the following statement regarding the Senate passage of House Joint Resolution 9, allowing the Illinois Tollway to move forward with construction of the \$3.4 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. Governor Quinn secured approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation in January for the project, and the Illinois House of Representatives passed the joint resolution May 1:

"I want to thank my friend, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, for his unwavering support for the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. This project will help us boost long-term economic development potential in northeastern Illinois and provide good-paying construction jobs for more than a decade," Governor Quinn said. "Today, I applaud all members of the General Assembly who supported this important resolution and look forward to breaking ground on this historic project later this year."

The project will provide congestion relief that is projected to save drivers \$145 million a year in time and fuel costs. It has the potential to create as many as 65,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2040 when combined with completion of the western terminal at O'Hare International Airport.

The resolution's sponsors and supporters in the Illinois House and Senate include: Sen. Thomas Cullerton (D-Villa Park), Sen. Michael Noland (D-Elgin), Sen. Christine Radogno (R-Lemont), Sen. John G. Mulroe (D-Chicago), Sen. Karen McConnaughay (R-South Elgin), Sen. Bill Cunningham (D-Chicago), Sen. Kirk Dillard (R-Westmont), Sen. Michael E. Hastings (D-Matteson), Rep. Robert Rita (D-Blue Island), Rep. Marty Moylan (D-Des Plaines), Rep. Michael P. McAuliffe (R-Chicago), Rep. Mike Fortner (R-West Chicago), Rep. Dennis M. Reboletti (R-Addison), Rep. Emmanuel Chris Welch (D-Westchester), Rep. Frances Ann Hurley (D-Chicago) and Rep. Fred Crespo (D-Streamwood).

The Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project includes construction of a new, all-electronic toll road around the western border of O'Hare International Airport linking the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the extension of the Elgin O'Hare Expressway east along Thorndale Avenue to O'Hare and the rehabilitation and widening of the existing Elgin O'Hare Expressway. The Illinois Tollway is planning to spend \$95.6 million in 2013 for work on the project, which is considered a "Project of National and Regional Significance" by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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