

*For immediate release*

## **Illinois Tollway Successfully Implements Phase I of Open Road Tolling Program**

**~ ETC Delivers Critical Systems Integration and Support for Congestion Relief Program ~**

Richardson, Texas – January 23, 2006 – Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and Illinois Tollway officials met a significant congestion-relief goal as it completed Phase I of its Open Road Tolling Program as they unveiled the ninth mainline toll plaza to offer Open Road Tolling (ORT) in 2005. The remainder of Tollway’s mainline toll plazas will be converted to ORT during 2006.

Collecting approximately 2 million toll transactions each day, Illinois is the first state in the nation to convert a barrier toll plaza system to ORT technology. ORT is a key component of the Tollway’s 10-year, \$5.3 billion Congestion-Relief Plan to reduce travel times by rebuilding/restoring 90 percent of the system, adding lanes to about 117 miles of existing roads, converting 20 mainline toll plazas to barrier-free Open Road Tolling, and extending I-355 south to I-80.

Jack Hartman, the Illinois Tollway’s Executive Director, stated, “Implementing ORT at our mainline toll plazas is an essential part of our Congestion-Relief Plan. This is a significant endeavor that is technically challenging and has an extremely demanding schedule. We were able to reach this Phase I goal in less than eight months, which is an incredible timeframe for this large-scale and complex project. Electronic Transaction Consultants’ (ETC’s) professional expertise, project management, and customer-oriented work philosophy has enabled us to meet our Phase I ORT goals and make it possible for us to meet our commitment to our customers.”

The conversion of the Tollway’s traditional toll plazas to a barrier-free system allows I-PASS users to travel at highway speeds while their tolls are collected electronically by overhead equipment, reducing congestion and travel times. Vehicles without I-PASS, or that need to exit shortly after the plaza, can use smaller traditional toll plazas to the right of the ORT lanes where they will not impact the free-flow of traffic on the mainline. Separating I-PASS traffic from vehicles paying cash also improves safety by eliminating the need to change lanes and merge into traffic. It also improves the environment by dramatically reducing emissions at toll plazas.

The heart of the new Illinois ORT system is the ETC-developed and integrated RITE® redundant lane control solution. The only truly redundant lane controller in the industry today, it offers automatic fault detection and fail-over protection to provide continuous operation across multiple lanes and shoulders. This gives the Illinois Tollway “wall-to-wall” revenue assurance at each tolling point. Since one controller in the redundant pair controls all equipment in the tolling zone, multiple lanes, and shoulder equipment, the

controller can more accurately correlate the collective input from all equipment simultaneously. This ability to uniquely locate and accurately identify the correct vehicle corresponding to a toll event in real time across multiple lanes is required to accurately separate I-PASS customers from violators – the very essence of cashless toll collection.

ORT is one of the major benefits the Illinois Tollway is providing its customers through replacing its existing toll collection system with the ETC-developed RITE Solution, arguably the most sophisticated toll collection system in the industry. The Illinois Tollway's RITE Solution extends from the lane through the back office, including advanced systems for customer service and violation processing operations, as well as for central host and audit and reconciliation processes. ETC also designed and implemented the reciprocity system that enables the Illinois Tollway's I-PASS to be compatible with the East Coast's E-ZPass systems, providing motorists the advantage of seamless travel between the various toll authorities.

#### About ETC

Recognized for its innovation in the toll industry, ETC successfully delivered the system design and integration for the first all-electronic, open road toll facility in the U.S.; has designed and implemented technically complex 4+ express ORT lanes, and created advanced solutions for HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes. ETC's systems provide interoperability between geographically dispersed toll facilities, airports, parking, and commercial transportation operations. ETC's team introduced the industry's first Web-based toll solution suite, which includes modules for Customer Service Center operations, Violation Processing Center, Audit & Reconciliation Host, Interoperability, Facility Server, and Lane Controller. More information on the company can be found at [www.etcc.com](http://www.etcc.com).

#### About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway maintains and operates 274 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the North-South Tollway (I-355), the Northwest Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94, I-294, I-80/I-294). More information on the Illinois Tollway and its Congestion-Relief Plan can be found at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

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#### ***For further information:***

ETC: Carla Kienast, Director of Corporate Communications, 972.239.5001, or [carla.kienast@etcc.com](mailto:carla.kienast@etcc.com).

Illinois Tollway: Michelle Damico, 630-241-6800 ext. 2387 or [mdamico@getipass.com](mailto:mdamico@getipass.com)