



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Tollway board to vote on study to progress Illinois Route 53 extension, Illinois Chamber of Commerce in support**

SPRINGFIELD, May 24, 2017 – The Illinois Chamber of Commerce expressed its support to the Illinois Tollway to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Illinois Route 53 extension. The Illinois Tollway board will vote on the future of the Illinois Route 53 project Thursday.

In a letter sent to the tollway on Wednesday, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce stated that a completed EIS provides stakeholders with the data they need to make an informed decision on what the project looks like moving forward. Additionally, that it will provide clarity on a number of issues, including environmental effects, route alternatives and a “no build” scenario.

“It’s important to the region that we take this opportunity to thoroughly assess the options for the proposed Route 53 extension. The Illinois Tollway has the opportunity to help move this process forward through an EIS, and we ask that you do not delay, but approve this study,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch.

Completion of the study does not guarantee the project moves forward, but it will look for what could be done to minimize the effects on local communities and the environment. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce says this includes looking at necessary steps to ensure existing roads are improved to limit future congestion and ensure maximum mobility and connectivity.

“It’s no secret that traffic congestion is only going to get worse. Reducing congestion is not only good for the environment, it’s also good for economic development,” said Illinois Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Council Executive Director Ben Brockschmidt.

“Lake County residents, visitors and businesses need solutions. The tollway conducting this study is one way we can try and reach these solutions,” Brockschmidt said.

*For more information about the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, visit; [ILChamber.org](http://ILChamber.org)*

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