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# Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

**December 2011**

## **New Toll Rates for Cars Begin on January 1, 2012**

### **Why?**

The Move Illinois Capital Program will address the remaining needs of the Tollway's existing system and provide for new projects to improve regional mobility, including:

- Constructing a new, all-electronic interchange at I-294/I-57 – one of two places in the nation where two interchanges cross but do not connect
- Constructing a new, all-electronic Elgin O'Hare West Bypass
- Reconstructing and adding a lane to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), while also planning for transit in that corridor by adding express bus service
- Planning studies for the Illinois Route 53 Corridor and the Illiana Expressway



### **Find Your New Rate**

The Illinois Tollway offers drivers a wide variety of ways to get information about the new toll rates.

- Calculate new rates for your trip using the [Tollway's Toll Calculator](#).
- Download the list of [2012 toll rates](#).
- View the signs at each toll plaza.
- Link to the [Illinois Virtual Tollway](#), an interactive map with Tollway information about toll rates, toll plazas, mile markers and Oases.
- Stop at a tollbooth and ask for a list of 2012 toll rates.

### **In This Issue...**

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### **Holiday Hours**



**Christmas Day**  
Customer Call Center closed



**Day After Christmas**  
Customer Call Center, Customer Service Centers and Tollway Headquarters closed



**New Year's Day**  
Customer Call Center closed

## Spend a Little, Save a Lot: Give the Gift of I-PASS

Looking for a gift that always fits and won't be re-gifted next year? Give an I-PASS gift card to family or friends who have yet to discover the joys of I-PASS. I-PASS is the only gift they can use to:



- Save time – I-PASS provides access to open road tolling; no more waiting in line to pay at a tollbooth.
- Save money – I-PASS customers pay 50 percent less than customers who pay cash.
- Save sanity – I-PASS accounts in good standing avoid toll violations.

'Tis the season to be saving – with I-PASS!

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## Why Tolls are Needed

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system and receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations, so tolls are necessary to cover the cost of:

- **Services** – Illinois State Police, H.E.L.P. Truck program and I-PASS customer service
- **Maintenance** – snow plowing and road maintenance
- **Construction** – reconstruction of the Tollway system and any new roads



Without the Illinois Tollway, the state would need to raise the gas tax by about 9 cents a gallon statewide to pay for maintenance and operation of existing Tollway roads – or 11-12 cents a gallon if the tax was only applied to the Tollway's 12-county service area. To fund the infrastructure improvements included in the Move Illinois Capital Program, the state would need to raise the gas tax by more than 20 cents a gallon.

[Learn more](#)

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## Just in Time for Holiday Travel Get the Illinois Tollway's New Guides to Lodging and Attractions

These guides provide a quick reference to



p.m.

[More customer service information](#)

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## Free Coffee at Tollway Oases

The Illinois Tollway, 7-Eleven and McDonald's are offering drivers a complimentary small cup of coffee on Christmas Eve from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and on New Year's Eve from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.



If you are traveling on the Tollway, stop at an [Oases](#) and grab a free cup of Joe.

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## Visit the Tollway's New Website

The [redesigned website](#) is fully accessible from mobile devices and offers improved navigation to I-PASS account information and the ability to pay missed tolls or view violation notices and images online.



The Tollway's website redesign was based on an analysis of the most frequently viewed Web pages in 2010. Typically, about 21,000 customers visit the Illinois Tollway's website daily.

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## Winter Driving Tips

Follow these tips to help you get to

local hotels and tourism attractions located near each of the Tollway's interchanges. There are four unique guides, one for each Tollway corridor:

- [Tri-State Tollway \(I-94/I-294/I-80\)](#)
- [Reagan Memorial Tollway \(I-88\)](#)
- [Jane Addams Memorial Tollway \(I-90\)](#)
- [Veterans Memorial Tollway \(I-355\)](#)

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## New Balmoral Avenue Exit Ramp Open!



The new, all-electronic northbound exit ramp to Balmoral Avenue from the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is now providing alternate access to O'Hare International Airport and direct access to Rosemont's developing entertainment district, including restaurants, hotels, recreation facilities, a convention center, theatre and retail development.

The new Balmoral ramp is the second all-electronic toll collection location on the Illinois Tollway. More than 1 million customers are expected to use the new ramp annually.

I-PASS toll rates for the Balmoral ramp are 80 cents for cars.

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## Know Before You Go

- [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) – Construction and Planning Section – for details
- 800-TOLL-FYI – Daily lane closure information
- [www.travelmidwest.com](http://www.travelmidwest.com) – Real-time travel times

your destination safely.



Clear snow and ice from all windows, mirrors and lights on your vehicle before driving.



Adjust speed to road conditions and traffic around you.



Increase the interval between your vehicle and the one in front of you.



Avoid unnecessary lane changes.

[Learn more](#)

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## State Police to Check Child Safety Seats



On January 16, 2012, the Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police will host a Child Safety Seat Check in Naperville at the Tollway's maintenance site located just north of I-88 and east of Freedom Drive. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[Learn more about child safety seat checks](#)

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- Up-to-the-minute traffic by roadway – [www.nbcchicago.com](http://www.nbcchicago.com)
- Construction eNewsletter – [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com)

**Questions?** [Contact us](#)

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