



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE ON NEW BALMORAL AVENUE EXIT RAMP  
ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**

Rosemont and Illinois Tollway Partnership Hailed as Success for Economic Development

ROSEMONT, IL – The Village of Rosemont and the Illinois Tollway today announced the completion of a new, all-electronic ramp creating access from the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to Balmoral Avenue and opportunity for local business development.

“The Balmoral Avenue exit ramp is a key project in my administration’s efforts to invest in the infrastructure needed to support Illinois’ economic growth and create jobs,” said Governor Quinn. “Making sure our transportation is unrivaled in the Midwest will help ensure Illinois continues to be a great place to live and work.”

Officials from the Village of Rosemont and the Illinois Tollway gathered this morning to officially mark completion of the project with the ramp scheduled to open to traffic this afternoon.

“We are thrilled that we now have a new front door to Rosemont,” said Rosemont Mayor Bradley Stephens. “I am proud of our partnership with the Tollway, which has allowed us to build what’s going to be a major economic boon to the entire region.”

More than 1 million vehicles are projected to use the new northbound Balmoral Avenue exit ramp annually. The new ramp provides alternate access to O’Hare International Airport and also offers new direct access to the Stephen’s Convention Center, the Rosemont Theatre and dozens of hotels, as well as the new entertainment district, The Park at Rosemont, and a new retail outlet shopping mall under construction immediately adjacent to the exit. Close proximity to Rosemont’s Metra commuter rail station and the CTA rapid transit Blue Line will also mean greater conveniences to the public.

“Expanded access to and from the Tollway through ramps like this can have a significant impact on the local and regional economies and change the face of neighboring communities,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “By working closely with the Village of Rosemont to make this project a reality, we were able build this new ramp in less than 8 months – a remarkable achievement by any standard.”

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The village and the Tollway entered into an intergovernmental agreement earlier this year to fund and construct the \$16 million project including the new ramp, as well as improvements on the southbound entrance ramp and Balmoral Avenue. The agreement is a first-of-its-kind for the Tollway, which will reimburse the village for up to half of the cost of construction through tolls received at the new all-electronic toll collection ramp over the next 25 years.

With about 84 percent of drivers using I-PASS on the Illinois Tollway, the new Balmoral exit ramp is an ideal location for an I-PASS Only toll ramp. I-PASS toll rates will be set at 80 cents for cars, and truck rates will range from \$3.00 to \$8.00 during daytime hours, with overnight discounts offered. Cash-paying customers can continue to exit the Tollway via the existing O'Hare ramp interchange within a mile to the north at I-190/River Road.

Construction of the Balmoral Interchange project began in May and also includes improvements to Balmoral Avenue bridge and to the southbound entrance ramp from Balmoral Avenue to the Tri-State Tollway.

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