Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ANNOUNCES TRAFFIC SHIFT ON JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90) TO PREPARE FOR START OF REBUILDING AND WIDENING WORK

Traffic shifts between I-39 in Rockford and the Elgin Toll Plaza

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway will begin shifting all traffic on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) between I-39 in Rockford and the Elgin Toll Plaza onto the westbound side of the road this week to create a work zone for the rebuilding and widening of the eastbound lanes.

As part of the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project, the eastbound lanes between I-39 in Rockford and the Elgin Toll Plaza will be rebuilt and a new lane added to provide three lanes in each direction. In addition, the inside lane and shoulder in both directions will be widened to provide accommodations for future transit opportunities. The eastbound lanes are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and the westbound lanes are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014.

"This traffic shift will enable us to move this $2.2 billion project into high gear so that we can complete the rebuilding and widening of the west section of I-90 next year," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. "We will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits."

Work to shift traffic is scheduled for the overnight hours beginning Wednesday, April 10, dependent on weather. All traffic between I-39 and the Elgin Toll Plaza is expected to be on the westbound side of the roadway by Thursday, April 18. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration until this fall.

The scheduled order of overnight traffic shifts includes:

- Between the Marengo Toll Plaza and Illinois Route 47
- Between Genoa Road and the Marengo Toll Plaza
- Between Illinois Route 47 and the Union Pacific Railroad
- Between the Union Pacific Railroad and the Elgin Toll Plaza
- Between Mill Road and Genoa Road

Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction. Two lanes of traffic in both directions will be maintained during construction by shifting all traffic onto the westbound side of the road while the eastbound lanes are rebuilt and widened.

However, westbound traffic between Irene Road near Belvidere and I-39 is currently reduced to one lane and an alternate route is posted to offer drivers the option to travel west via U.S. Route 20 to reach I-90 and I-39. The existing Kishwaukee River Bridge is not wide enough to maintain four lanes of traffic and a work zone. Two lanes remain available for eastbound traffic.

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During construction, drivers will have access to all Tollway entrance and exit ramps, including Randall Road, Illinois Route 47, U.S. Route 20, Genoa Road, Irene Road and I-39, as well as the Belvidere Oasis. In addition, crossovers will be in place to allow eastbound traffic to access the interchanges through the work zone, as well as at mainline bridges under construction.

At the Belvidere Toll Plaza, eastbound traffic will be routed under the monotube used for westbound toll collection, but no toll will be charged for eastbound drivers. At the Marengo Toll Plaza, eastbound traffic will be routed over to the eastbound lanes for toll collection and then back to the westbound side of the roadway to continue traveling through the construction zone. And, at the Elgin Toll Plaza, drivers paying cash will be required to use the right lane to reach the cash side of the plaza. All traffic in the left lane will be routed through the open road tolling lanes.

Rebuilding and widening the 54-year-old Jane Addams Memorial Tollway from the Kennedy Expressway to I-39 in Rockford is part of the 15-year, $12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. When complete, I-90 will be a 21st century, state-of-the-art corridor linking Rockford to O'Hare Airport with eight lanes from the Kennedy Expressway to the Elgin Toll Plaza and six lanes from the Elgin Toll Plaza to I-39.

Work Zone Safety

Emergency pull-out areas have been constructed approximately every mile in both directions throughout the construction zone to give drivers a place to safely pull off the roadway in case of emergency. To further assist customers, the Tollway will provide two Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks and two motorist aide trucks patrolling the roadway 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the work zone.

Construction zone speed limits are in effect in all construction zones 24/7 and drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution, especially when workers are present. A 45 mph speed limit will be in place.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is $375. Posted signs advise drivers of a $10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.

About *Move Illinois*

The Illinois Tollway's $12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future,* will improve mobility, relieve congestion, reduce pollution, create as many as 120,000 jobs and link economies across the Midwest region. *Move Illinois* will address the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system; rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; build a new, all-electronic Elgin O'Hare Western Access and fund planning studies for the Illinois Route 53/120 Extension and the Illiana Expressway.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 286 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

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