



November 2005

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Feature Story

No More Tollbooths

ORT = Non-Stop Toll Collection



As a first in things to come, Open Road Tolling (ORT) lanes were opened at the Irving Park Road toll plaza on the southbound Tri-State last week so drivers with I-PASS no longer have to stop at tollbooths. [Read More...](#)

Talk to the Tollway

Tell us what you think by taking our quick survey:

[Have you visited a new Oasis?](#)

Open Road Tolling



Now Available: Irving Park Rd. (I-294), Aurora (I-88)

Opening This Year: Edens Spur (I-94); Boughton Rd. and Army Trail Rd. (I-355); 82nd St., 83rd St., Touhy Ave., and Cermak Rd. (I-294).

Remainder in 2006

Dear Tollway Customer,

A little more than a year ago, we promised that we would convert the Tollway to Open Road Tolling. I am happy to say that this promise has started to become a reality. For I-PASS drivers who use the Irving Park Road toll plaza, toll booths are a thing of the past. And by next Fall, that will be true at all 20 mainline toll plazas on the Illinois Tollway.

Just think about what you can do instead of waiting in line at toll plazas. Soon, rather than spending time sitting in traffic, you will have more time to do the things that matter to you like spending time with your family.

Government is supposed to make people's lives better, and that's what Open Road Tolling does. Not having to slow down or stop to pay tolls means that you will get to your destination faster and emit less pollution. And Open Road Tolling also promotes safety and helps our economy.

I look forward to next year when the promise of Open Road Tolling is complete and you will be enjoying its benefits throughout the Tollway system.

Sincerely,
Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Construction Update

Congestion-Relief Program At-a-Glance

Governor Blagojevich's \$5.3 billion Program will reduce travel times by:

- Rebuilding/restoring 90 percent of the system
- Adding lanes to 117 miles of existing roads
- Converting 20 mainline toll plazas to Open Road Tolling
- Extending I-355 South by 2007

Illinois Tollway
Open Roads for a Faster Future

Question of the Month

Q: Why do we still have to pay tolls?

A: The Illinois Tollway does not receive any state or federal funds. The maintenance, construction and rebuilding of the 274-mile Tollway system, along with any extension (such as I-355) is funded entirely by the tolls you pay. Since only those who use the Tollway, pay for the Tollway, most consider it better than the funding alternative. There is no such thing as a free road. Getting rid of tolls would mean a substantial increase in the gasoline tax, to be paid by everybody, whether you use the Tollway or not.

[Submit a Question to the Tollway*](#)

*All concerns will be addressed, but we may not be able to provide a

[Tri-State \(I-294\)](#) | [North-South \(I-355\)](#) | [Reagan Memorial \(I-88\)](#) | [Open Road Tolling \(ORT\)](#)



Rebuild & Widen

Phase I: From 167th St. to IL Rte. 394

The south Tri-State from the Kingery Expressway (I-80/94) in South Holland to 95th St. in Oak Lawn will be rebuilt and widened to four lanes with work now underway in the five miles south of 167th St. (Phase I).

- Work in the northbound lanes will be complete in December.
- The Tollway will continue work over the winter in the median so road work to rebuild and widen the southbound lanes can begin in Spring and be completed earlier in the Fall of 2006.



Northbound lanes done soon.

[Read More About I-294](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)



Extension

From I-55 to I-80

The North-South Tollway is being extended 12.5 miles south from the Stevenson Expressway to serve growing Will County, and is scheduled to be completed in 2007.

- Earthwork is underway including recent work near the I-55 (Stevenson Expressway) interchange in Bolingbrook. Work this year includes embankment excavation, drainage work, and creating runarounds for bridges that will be constructed in 2006, like the one due to open at Bruce Rd.
- The Tollway plans to begin work on the 1.5-mile DesPlaines River Valley Bridge early next year.



A temporary road called a "runaround" is constructed parallel to Bruce Road to carry local traffic while a new bridge is constructed over the path of the South Extension.

personalized answer to each person who submits a question.



Don't PASS up this stocking stuffer idea!

Should you give a gift that will make life more convenient or one that will save time? Do both by giving an I-PASS transponder. With Open Road Tolling on the way, now is the time to share I-PASS with friends and family and pass along the convenience of not having to fumble for change on the Tollway.



[Order online](#) from the Tollway website or stop by a Jewel-Osco service desk to buy a transponder or I-PASS gift card in person.

[Manage Your Account Online](#)
Call: 1.800.UC.IPASS

Minimizing Impact

[Read More About I-355](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)



Rebuild & Widen

IL Rte. 59 to Naperville Rd.

Rebuilding and widening of this five-mile section, known as the "washboard," is almost complete.

- Eastbound traffic remains shifted into a crossover configuration until construction is complete as scheduled for mid-December.
- One eastbound lane is shifted into an express lane that is separated by a barrier wall; no exit is permitted from this lane between IL Rte. 59 and I-355.



Work on eastbound lanes of I-88 "washboard" is almost complete.

[Read More About I-88 Rebuild and Widen](#)

Roadway Rehabilitation

IL Rte. 251 to U.S. Rte. 30

A 32-mile section of road is being "rubblized" on the western end of I-88 in North-Central Illinois for a smoother ride.

- The 7-mile section in the center remains under construction, with the inside shoulder and lane closed for rehabilitation.
- Work is expected to be completed by December of this year.
- A 2-mile patch of pavement just east of this project was also rubblized to prepare for the construction of a new DeKalb Plaza at that location. To avoid tearing it up twice, this stretch of road will remain bumpy until plaza construction and Open Road Tolling lanes are complete in 2006 and it can be permanently paved.



Rubblization is a cost-efficient way to rehab the road.

[Read More About I-88 Rehab](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)



Systemwide Toll Plaza Conversions

All 20 mainline toll



To minimize impact on traffic in construction zones, three lanes are typically available in both directions during peak travel times. Temporary off-peak lane closures are sometimes needed and posted on the [Tollway's construction webpage](#).

plazas will be converted to Open Road Tolling (ORT) for non-stop I-PASS travel by the end of 2006. We apologize for delays created by this work.

- Open Road Tolling is coming to 8 plazas this year. Remaining plazas to be completed next year include: South Beloit, Belvidere, Marengo, Elgin, Devon, and River Rd. (I-90); Waukegan and 163rd St. (I-294); York, Meyers, DeKalb and Dixon (I-88).
- As a rule, each plaza will have as many ORT lanes after conversion as there are mainline lanes leading into or exiting the plaza, so traffic does not have to change lanes or shift to pay tolls while traveling at highway speeds.
- To minimize impact, construction is being coordinated to keep as many I-PASS only lanes open as possible during the conversion.



Crews construct ORT monotubes for electronic toll collection.

[Read More About Open Road Tolling](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)

Feature Story

No More Tollbooths ORT = Non-Stop Toll Collection

As a first in things to come, Open Road Tolling (ORT) lanes were opened at the Irving Park Road toll plaza on the southbound Tri-State last week so drivers with I-PASS no longer have to stop at tollbooths.

Illinois' conversion from traditional toll plazas to a barrier-free system is a first in the nation. It allows I-PASS users to travel at highway speeds on the mainline while their tolls are collected electronically from their transponder by a monotube overhead, reducing congestion and emissions. Vehicles without I-PASS or that need to exit shortly after the plaza pull to the right into smaller toll plazas where they can pay cash to toll collectors or use I-PASS.

This is the first of eight toll plazas currently under construction that will provide Open Road Tolling lanes by year's end with the conversion of all toll plazas completed by fall 2006. Open Road Tolling and the other



New Open Road Tolling lanes allow drivers to pay tolls at highway speed.

improvements included in the Governor's \$5.3 billion Congestion-Relief Program will reduce the average Tollway trip by another 10 to 15 minutes one way.

[Read More About Open Road Tolling](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)

Moving Traffic Along

Watch for Snow Plows

It's only a matter of time before winter's grip steals a few minutes, or more, from your travel time. When the snow and ice arrive, please remember that Tollway work crews will be spreading salt and plowing the roads for your safety.

Please keep a safe distance from snow plows, especially when salt is being discharged and when the trucks are clearing snow from the roadway. During heavy snows, the plows often line up in formation across all lanes of traffic to quickly move the snow off the road. For your safety, do not attempt to pass the trucks if you see the tandem configuration.



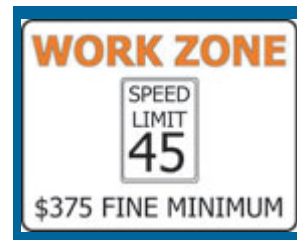
It takes 1,640 lane miles to de-ice and plow the Tollway system during a snow and ice storm, which is the equivalent to driving from Chicago to the Grand Canyon.

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Safety Zone

Drive 45 and Stay Alive

Did you know that the speed limit in work zones is 45 mph (or less) even when workers are not present? That is because roads under construction are typically shifted or reconfigured in a way that makes it unsafe to drive at regular highway speed, even when work is not underway.



We encourage you to stay alert and follow work zone speed limits not just for the safety of workers but also for the safety of you and your fellow drivers. To help enforce work zone speed limits, Illinois State Police officers conduct regular speed details. They will soon debut video enforcement so speeders may get a ticket even if they don't see a police car.

The fines are steep: \$375 for first offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. The penalty for hitting a road worker is up to 14 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

[Learn More About Work Zone Safety](#) | [Back to Main Menu](#)

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Questions? [Contact Us](#)

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