



July 2008

To be sure our email reaches your inbox (not bulk or junk folders), please add info@openroadsahead.com to your address book.

Be Safe. Be Wise. Save Gas. Save Lives.
Register to Win a \$50 Gas Card in the AAA Summer Gas Giveaway

Pledge to Slow Down and Register to Win

Visit NBC5 to take the *Be Safe. Be Wise.* Pledge. Participants will be automatically linked to AAA's Web page to sign up for the chance to win a \$50 gas card.

One winner a day will be randomly chosen between July 4 and Labor Day, September 1, 2008.



Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes

The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich, AAA Chicago, NBC5 Chicago and the Illinois Department of Transportation, encourage you to obey posted speed limits to increase fuel efficiency and save lives. When driving this summer, remember that slowing down can really add up.

Be Safe.

85% of work zone crashes in Illinois injure motorists, not workers.

Be Wise.

Keep tires properly inflated - fuel economy decreases by 10-20% when your tires are low.

Save Gas.

Every 5 mph you go above 60 mph is like spending \$0.22 more per gallon for gas.

Save Lives.

In Illinois, an average of 7,000 crashes occur in highway work zones every year.

[Learn how to Be Safe. Be Wise. Save Gas. Save Lives.](#)

[Take the Pledge](#)

[Learn more about work zone safety](#)

[More fuel conservation tips from AAA \(PDF\)](#)

Construction News You Can Use

Major Milestones Accomplished Systemwide



Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)

Elmhurst/Oak Brook Area

Work continues to rebuild the westbound lanes. Westbound traffic using the cash lanes at the York Road Toll Plaza will be shifted to the right onto new pavement in early July.

By early August, the third Open Road Tolling (ORT) lane is scheduled to re-open and northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) traffic entering westbound I-88 will be able to use the ORT lanes.

Naperville Road Interchange

Ramp construction has been recently completed on the westbound entrance and exit. Motorists now use Freedom Drive and Warrenville Road to get to and from Naperville Road.

As one of the final project milestones, the portion of Freedom Drive under the I-88 bridge will be complete in late 2008. This will serve as a direct connection between Warrenville Road and Diehl Road. Currently motorists must use Naperville Road to connect.

Aurora Toll Plaza

The Aurora Toll Plaza is being expanded. Three cash lanes and two Open Road Tolling (ORT) lanes will remain open in each direction during construction. The ORT lanes will be shifted as you approach the plaza to provide space for the addition of a third ORT lane in both directions and plaza reconstruction. Additional work includes construction of a new bridge to provide for three lanes of traffic in each direction on the Fox River Bridge and throughout the mainline west to Orchard Road.



Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

Rockford Area

Newburg Road Bridge is scheduled for completion and will re-open in early to mid-July.

[Sign-up for custom traffic alerts](#)

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Chicago Travel Options Study: Help Shape the Future of Chicago Area Travel!



Share your travel preferences and suggestions for improving rush-hour congestion by completing the following 10-15 minute survey.

[Click to begin the survey](#)

The Federal Highway Administration, the Metropolitan Planning Council, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Illinois Tollway are researching solutions to reduce rush-hour congestion on interstates throughout the Chicago area. Wilbur Smith Associates, a transportation consulting firm, is overseeing the project.

Survey participants are eligible for a prize drawing. Wilbur Smith Associates will award \$50 gift cards

to 25 winners. Please email questions about the Chicago Travel Options Study to chicagotravel@surveycafe.com.

July Child Safety Seat Events Coming to a Location Near You

- Wednesday, July 9 - Belvidere Oasis (I-90)
- Saturday, July 12 - Naperville Babies "R" Us
- Saturday, July 26 - Hampshire Maintenance Location (I-90)



View a complete list of dates and driving directions for all scheduled Child Safety Seat Events on the Illinois Tollway's [website](#).

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