



North Tri-State Tollway

Illinois Tollway
Open Roads for a Faster Future

Willow Road Bridge – Reconstruct and Widen

The Illinois Tollway is rebuilding and widening the North Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-94) throughout a 39-mile corridor in order to provide congestion relief. In a joint project with IDOT, the Tollway reconstructed and widened the Willow Road Bridge in order to accommodate the Tollway's Rebuild & Widen Project. As part of the project, the Tollway rebuilt about a mile of Willow Road from Sanders Road to Landwehr Road.

The Tollway's Rebuild & Widen project includes reconstructing and widening to four lanes in each direction of the North Tri-State Tollway between Dempster Street and IL Route 173 and reconstructing the less congested section north of IL Route 173 to Russell Road. The section between Russell Road and the Wisconsin state line will be resurfaced. This work is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

Update – Latest Construction Info

Three lanes on the Willow Road Bridge over I-294 opened to traffic in December 2007, several months ahead of schedule. Work to complete median and traffic signal work was finished in fall 2008.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

The Tollway coordinated bridge work with IDOT and Cook and Lake County officials to minimize the impact to local roads. One lane was maintained in both directions on the bridge to keep Willow Road open during reconstruction. There were minimal impacts to traffic on the Tri-State Tollway during bridge reconstruction. Lane closures were permitted off-peak only to minimize the impact to traffic.

Work Zone Safety

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 35 m.p.h. speed limit will be in place on the bridge during construction, while a 45 m.p.h. speed limit will be in place on the mainline. See the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at www.illinoistollway.com.

Schedule

Early 2007 - Project began with lane reductions on Willow Road.

December 2007 - Three lanes opened to traffic.

Fall 2008 – All work completed, including median and traffic signal work.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening the Willow Road Bridge allows the Tollway to widen I-294 underneath Willow Road to provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. The Tollway coordinated this project with local, county and state transportation and transit officials.

For further information visit www.illinoistollway.com & view the construction section, or call 1-800-TOLL-FYI.

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