

South Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Rebuild & Widen

Four Lanes Now Open To Traffic from IL Route 394 to 167th Street

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing and widening 17.6 miles of the south Tri-State Tollway from IL Route 394 in South Holland, where the Tri-State meets the Kingery Expressway, to 95th Street in Oak Lawn. Phase I, from IL Route 394 to 167th Street, began in January 2005, and is now complete with four lanes now open in both directions. This project is part of the Tollway's \$5.3 billion Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

Update – Latest Construction Info

Phase I: Traffic in both directions from 167th Street to IL Route 394 is now driving on four lanes of new pavement. The Wood Street entrance and Dixie Highway exit has reopened to traffic. Minor off-peak lane closures will continue in early 2007 to complete punch list work.

The I-80 East and West Toll Plazas have been reconstructed and each now features two Open Road Tolling lanes and three toll booth lanes.

Phase II: Advance repair and resurfacing work is now complete between 159th Street and 95th Street. Shoulder repairs and resurfacing were completed in 2005 to improve the shoulders so they are able to carry traffic when the Rebuild & Widen project gets underway. Off-road advance work is scheduled to begin in spring 2007 to construct retaining walls, widen mainline bridge foundations, repair crossroad bridges and to complete drainage work in advance of mainline roadway work.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

Daytime lane closures will be avoided whenever possible with the majority of lane closures restricted to overnight hours and occasional daytime closures during off-peak periods. While these are the typical lane closures, please see our Daily Lane Closures for specific daily lane closures per project. The use of crossovers allows the contractor to perform work in a protected work zone, while traffic retains three lanes in each direction during daytime hours. Signage along the road and dynamic signs overhead share information on travel times and incidents that may impact traffic. The Tollway has added a second HELP Truck to serve disabled motorists in the construction zone. Call *999 on your cell phone to help keep lanes clear. Trucks should stay in the right lanes. For information about construction on the Kingery Expressway, between IL Route 394 and Calumet Avenue in Indiana, visit www.kingeryexpressway.com. For information on the Borman Expressway in Indiana, visit www.borman.in.gov.

Work Zone Safety

Remember to drive safely in work zones and abide by the 45 m.p.h. speed limit; see the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at www.illinoistollway.com.



The Markham Yard Bridge was reconstructed and widened.

Schedule

Phase I: Initial work began on the southern leg in January 2005 to set up the work zones. Northbound work was completed by June 2006. Over the winter, work began to complete demolition of the southbound lanes north of Center Street. By December 2006, four lanes of new pavement were available from 167th Street to IL Route 394.

Phase II: Rebuilding & Widening of the Cal-Sag Channel Bridge, located in the Phase II section, is complete with three lanes available in each direction. Advance work for crossroad bridges on local roads and to construct retaining walls off-road from 159th Street to 95th Street is expected to begin in spring 2007. The impact to I-294 traffic will be minimal, with traffic shifted to the median and two left lanes to create a work zone on the outside lane. Three lanes will be maintained in each direction.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Reconstructing and widening this section of road to four lanes will provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. This project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Indiana Department of Transportation rebuilding and widening of the sections of I-80/94 (also known as Kingery Expressway in Illinois) under their jurisdiction. Each agency is coordinating work in the Southland Corridor to reduce impact to motorists. **When the entire project is complete, there will be an extra lane from 95th Street on the Tri-State to I-65 in Indiana.**

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

Updated January 5, 2007