



Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294), Rebuild & Widen Balmoral Avenue to Dempster Street

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing and widening to four lanes the 4.5-mile section of the Central Tri-State Tollway between Balmoral Avenue and Dempster Street in order to provide congestion relief and reduced travel times for Tollway customers. This work is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

Update – Latest Construction Info

Northbound traffic north of the Touhy Toll Plaza is now traveling on three lanes of new pavement and will be shifted to the far right shoulder and right-most lanes in mid-March to accommodate southbound construction between Dempster Street and Touhy Avenue. Three southbound lanes of traffic will then be shifted and maintained on the northbound side of the road. Crossroad bridge and toll plaza work continues in the northbound lanes between Balmoral Avenue and Touhy Avenue. Southbound work between Touhy Avenue and Balmoral Avenue will begin in late summer 2008.

The reconstructed Touhy Avenue exit ramps from northbound I-294 reopened in late November. Traffic exiting at Touhy Avenue must go through the cash side of the Touhy Toll Plaza. The right-most Open Road Tolling lane at the plaza remains closed to traffic until summer 2008 as the cash side of the plaza is being reconstructed. One I-PASS Only lane and three cash toll booths are currently open on the cash side of the toll plaza and will remain open until summer 2008 when two additional cash toll booths will be available.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

Three lanes of traffic will remain available in both directions during daytime hours throughout this project. Lane closures will be permitted off-peak only, to minimize the impact to traffic. Please see our Daily Lane Closures for specific daily lane closures per project.

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 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

- Fall 2006 – Northbound work began from Touhy Avenue to Dempster.
- Late 2007 – Northbound lanes from Touhy Avenue to Dempster completed.
- Spring 2008 – Southbound work begins from Dempster Street to Touhy Avenue.
- Summer 2008 – Southbound work begins from Touhy Avenue to Balmoral.
- Completion by end of 2009.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening this section of road to four lanes will provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. The Tollway is coordinating work with local, county and state transportation officials on work to reconstruct I-294 in this section. When Rebuild & Widen Projects on the north, central and south segments are complete, the Tri-State Tollway will provide four lanes in each direction from Indiana, up to the north end of the system near the Wisconsin state line.

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

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