

Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), Rebuild & Widen Project Aurora Toll Plaza to Orchard Road

The Illinois Tollway is rebuilding & widening a 3.4-mile section of the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) between the Aurora Toll Plaza and Orchard Road. This work is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

In addition to rebuilding the roadway, the Rebuild & Widen Project will add a third lane in each direction to provide additional capacity and help reduce congestion. The project also includes plans to construct a new Fox River Bridge immediately south of the existing bridge, rehabilitate the existing Fox River Bridge, rebuild the bridge carrying IL Route 31 over the Tollway and the ramp bridge at the IL Route 31 interchange, and rebuild portions of the entrance and exit ramps at IL Route 31 and Orchard Road as required to meet the widened mainline pavement. The project will also remove the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Bridge structure over I-88, just west of the IL Route 31 interchange.

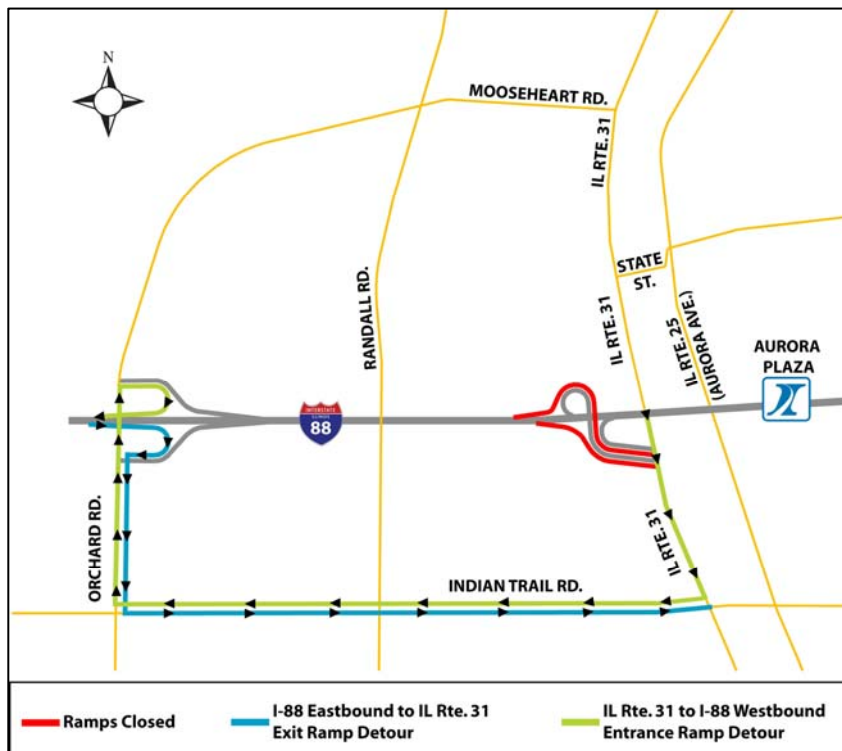
Update – Latest Construction Info

Eastbound mainline rebuild and widen work from Orchard Road to the Aurora Toll Plaza is scheduled to begin in April. Reconstruction of the IL Route 31 entrance and exit ramps also is scheduled to begin in April, with full closures of the eastbound exit ramp and the westbound entrance ramp. IL Route 31 also will be reduced from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction. A local closure is scheduled this spring on Sullivan Road to replace a Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing.

Detours will be posted for the IL Route 31 ramp closures. The detour for traffic exiting eastbound will direct traffic to exit at Orchard Road, south to Indian Trail Road and east to IL Route 31. The westbound entrance detour will direct traffic south on IL Route 31, west on Indian Trail Road, north on Orchard Road to the westbound I-88 entrance ramp. (See map).

Additional detours will occur during the construction season at Orchard Road and IL Route 31.

Work to build the new Fox River Bridge to carry eastbound traffic began in 2007 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2008. Closures on IL Route 25 and IL Route 31 will be scheduled.



Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

Two lanes of Tollway traffic will remain available in both directions during daytime hours through the use of reduced lane widths and shifted lanes.

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

Schedule

- 2007 – Pre-stage survey and shoulder resurfacing work completed. Work began to construct a new eastbound Fox River Bridge.
- April-Fall 2008 – Ramp closures at IL Route 31 eastbound exit and westbound entrance.
- April 2008 – Eastbound mainline and median reconstruction and widening begins.
- Spring 2008 – Aurora Toll Plaza modifications begin.
- Fall 2008 – Ramp closures at the IL Route 31 interchange and at Orchard Road interchange.
- 2009 – Westbound entrance and exit ramp closures at Orchard Road and IL Route 31.
- 2009 – Rebuild & Widen work scheduled be completed by the end of 2009.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening this section of road to three lanes will provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. The Illinois Tollway will be coordinating with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Kane County, the Illinois Commerce Commission, Fox Valley Park District, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, the Village of North Aurora and the City of Aurora to coordinate work.

Further east on the corridor, a project has begun to rebuild and widen to four lanes in each direction from Washington Street to Finley Road, and from IL Route 83 to York Road. A new project will begin in early 2008 in the section from Finley Road to IL Route 83. The section from IL Route 59 to Washington Street was rebuilt and widened to four lanes in 2005.

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

Updated March 5, 2008