



## **South Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Phase II Rebuild & Widen**

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing and widening 17.6 miles of the south Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-80) from IL Route 394 in South Holland, where the Tri-State meets the Kingery Expressway, to 95<sup>th</sup> Street in Oak Lawn. In 2008, mainline Rebuild & Widen work is scheduled southbound from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 95<sup>th</sup> Street. Northbound construction is scheduled in 2009. Phase I, from IL Route 394 to 167<sup>th</sup> Street, was completed in late 2006; four lanes are now open in both directions. This project is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

### **Update – Latest Construction Info**

Rebuild & Widen work from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 95<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled in the southbound lanes in 2008. In mid-March, northbound traffic is scheduled to shift to the right shoulder and two right-most lanes from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 95<sup>th</sup> Street to accommodate a future southbound counterflow lane. In April, southbound traffic is scheduled to shift left to the left-most lane, median shoulder and counterflow lane on the northbound side of the road as work begins to rebuild and widen the southbound lanes.

The southbound counterflow lane will not have access to exit ramps to westbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street and eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street. Traffic needing to exit at 159<sup>th</sup> Street must remain in the right two lanes.

### **Ramp and Local Crossroad Impacts**

Rebuild & Widen work includes reconstructing the 95<sup>th</sup> Street and Cicero Avenue/127<sup>th</sup> Street interchanges. In mid-March, the ramp from southbound I-294 to westbound 95<sup>th</sup> Street will close for approximately two weeks for work to build a temporary intersection at 95<sup>th</sup> Street that will be used in an upcoming construction stage. A detour will be in place directing traffic to exit at eastbound 95<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left on 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue to reach westbound 95<sup>th</sup> Street.

The I-294 northbound exit ramp to southbound Cicero Avenue also is scheduled to close in mid-March to accommodate the southbound Rebuild & Widen project. A detour will be in place directing traffic to take the northbound exit ramp to 127<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left on 127<sup>th</sup> Street to reach Cicero Avenue.

Off-road work for Phase II from 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 95<sup>th</sup> Street was completed in November 2007 for work to construct retaining walls, widen mainline bridge foundations, repair crossroad bridge substructures, and to complete drainage work in advance of mainline roadway work.

### **Local Crossroad Bridge Impacts**

Fourteen local crossroads that run underneath the Tollway will be impacted by construction. Overnight closures may be scheduled on local crossroads to accommodate overhead bridge deck work.

## **Crossroads Impacted**

---

147 <sup>th</sup> Street	Kedzie Ave.
Rexford Road	Crawford Road
Midlothian Turnpike	135 <sup>th</sup> Street
131 <sup>st</sup> Street	Ridgeland Avenue
115 <sup>th</sup> Street	111 <sup>th</sup> Street
SW Highway	Harlem Avenue
95 <sup>th</sup> Street	107 <sup>th</sup> Street

### **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 at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **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](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Schedule**

*Phase I:* COMPLETE. Initial work began on the southern leg in January 2005 to set up the work zones. Work was completed in December 2006, with four lanes of new pavement available from 167<sup>th</sup> 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 159<sup>th</sup> Street to 95<sup>th</sup> Street was completed in November 2007. Mainline Rebuild & Widen work is scheduled for southbound lanes in 2008 and northbound lanes in 2009.

### **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 Illinois Department of Transportation and Cook County officials under their jurisdiction. **When the entire project is complete, there will be an extra lane from 95<sup>th</sup> Street on the Tri-State to I-65 in Indiana. By 2010, there will be four lanes in each direction from I-65 in Indiana to IL Route 173, nearly to the Wisconsin state border.**

**For further information visit [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) and view the Construction section, or call 1-800-TOLL-FYI.**

Updated March 13, 2008

