



North Tri-State Tollway (I-294/94) Rebuild & Widen Project

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. The 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

Southbound Rebuild & Widen work between Grand Avenue and Dempster Street is scheduled to begin this spring. Southbound traffic between Dempster Street and Lake Cook Road is shifted into a counterflow configuration with one southbound lane traveling on the northbound side of the road and two local lanes are traveling on the left lane and left shoulder. Northbound traffic is shifted to the right to accommodate the counterflow lane. Traffic in the counterflow lane does not have access to exit at Willow Road or Golf Road. Traffic planning to exit I-294 before the Jane Addams Tollway (I-90) interchange must stay in the right local lanes.

Between Half Day Road and Grand Avenue, work continues to shift northbound traffic to the right to accommodate a southbound counterflow configuration expected to be in place in mid-March.

Rebuild & Widen work in the northbound lanes from Grand Avenue to Russell Road is scheduled to begin in spring 2008 and will utilize a counterflow lane between Grand Avenue and the Wisconsin state line. The southbound exit to U.S. Route 41 will be closed while the northbound lanes are under construction. A detour will be posted, directing southbound I-94 traffic to exit at Russell Road, continuing westbound on Russell Road to Old Route 41, and south on Old Route 41 to reach U.S. Route 41.

Work on the southbound lanes from Russell Road to Grand Avenue was completed in late 2007, and traffic is traveling on three lanes of new pavement. The fourth lane will open when all Rebuild & Widen work is finished in the North Tri-State corridor from Dempster Street to IL Route 173. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Update – Counterflow lanes

Northbound lane closures continue between Grand Avenue and Half Day Road to begin construction of a counterflow lane for southbound traffic. In early spring, southbound traffic is scheduled to shift into the counterflow lane, median shoulder and left-most lane as work begins to rebuild and widen the southbound lanes.

A counterflow configuration is already in place for southbound traffic between Lake Cook Road and Dempster Street.

In addition, this spring a northbound counterflow lane will be constructed between Grand Avenue and the Wisconsin state line as work begins this spring to rebuild and widen the northbound lanes.

Update - Bridge Construction

Several bridges will be improved to accommodate mainline construction. To minimize the impact on local roads, work on crossroad bridge construction will be staggered to the extent possible to reduce inconvenience. The bridges will remain open with staged traffic and reduced lanes.

The Tollway is coordinating bridge work with IDOT, Cook County, and Lake County officials to minimize the impact to local roads. While we are working to minimize the impact, delays are expected.

Bridges being improved include Ballard Road, Golf Road, Central Road, Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Avenue, Willow Road, Sanders Road, Lake Cook Road, Half Day Road, Townline Road, Rockland Road, O'Plaine Road, Belvidere Road, Washington Street, Grand Avenue, Rosecrans Road (IL Route 173) and U.S. Route 41.

The westbound bridge carrying IL Route 120 (Belvidere Road) over the Tri-State Tollway is currently closed for reconstruction. All traffic is traveling on the newly reconstructed eastbound bridge, providing one lane in each direction and one westbound auxiliary lane for traffic entering or exiting at I-94. This stage is expected to be in place until late 2008. Construction is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

The Willow Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway also is being rebuilt and widened. Three through lanes in each direction opened in late December. Construction on the approaches to the bridge, turn lanes and median work is scheduled for completion in 2008.

The Lake Cook Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is being rebuilt. Construction began in December 2007. Bridge and pavement work will begin in early 2008 and will require long-term lane reductions along Lake Cook Road.

Work to rebuild and widen the Grand Avenue Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is scheduled to begin in Summer 2008.

Work to rebuild and widen the Half Day Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is scheduled to begin in Fall 2008.

Work to rebuild the O'Plaine Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is scheduled to begin in Summer 2008.

Work to repair the Rosecrans Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is scheduled to begin in Summer 2008.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

Three lanes of traffic will remain available in both directions during daytime hours throughout this project through the use of counterflow lanes and shoulders. Lane closures will be 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. Reduced speed limits will be in place on bridges under 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

- 2007 – Work in the southbound lanes from the Wisconsin State Line to Grand Avenue was completed in late 2007.
- Early 2008 – Rebuild & Widen work begins in the northbound lanes from Grand Avenue to IL Route 173, as well as rebuild work from IL Route 173 to Russell Road. Resurfacing work scheduled from Russell Road to the Wisconsin State Line also begins. Completion scheduled by end of 2008.
- Early 2008 – Rebuild & Widen work begins in the southbound lanes from Grand Avenue to Half Day Road.
- 2009 – Work continues in northbound lanes from Dempster Street to Grand Avenue.
- 2010 – All work completed.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening the section of road to four lanes in each direction from Dempster Street to IL Route 173 and rebuilding from IL Route 173 to Russell Road 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/I-94 in these sections. 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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