



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

### **Lake Cook Road Bridge Replacement and Roadway Widening**

The Lake Cook Road Bridge Replacement and Roadway Widening Project is a joint effort between the Cook County Highway Department and the Illinois Tollway to improve travel and reduce impacts on motorists. The project is part of the Illinois Tollway's North Tri-State Tollway (I-294/94) Rebuild & Widen Project to provide congestion relief in the 39-mile corridor between Dempster Street and the Wisconsin state line.

The bridge over the northbound lanes of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is being rebuilt and lengthened in order to accommodate the Tollway's Rebuild & Widen Project that is already underway. As part of this project, the Tollway will also widen and resurface about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of Lake Cook Road from west of the southbound I-294 entrance and exit ramps to east of Wilmot Road. The project will also include watermain construction and resurfacing along Wilmot Road.

The North Tri-State 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**

Bridge and pavement work will begin in early 2008 and will require long-term lane reductions along Lake Cook Road. Traffic on Lake Cook Road will be reduced from three lanes to two lanes in each direction from west of the southbound I-294 entrance and exit ramps to east of Wilmot Road. Additionally, the dual left turn lanes at the Lake Cook Road intersections with the I-294 northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps will be reduced to single left turn lanes during construction. Delays on Lake Cook Road are expected.

Wilmot Road will be closed to northbound traffic between Lake Cook Road and Gordon Terrace for a period of three weeks beginning in spring 2008 in order to upgrade and construct a watermain crossing. Northbound Wilmot Road traffic will be detoured via Lake Cook Road, Saunders Road and Deerfield Road until the watermain construction is complete. Northbound Wilmot Road will then be re-opened to traffic for the remainder of construction. Southbound Wilmot Road will remain open during all stages.

The right and left shoulders on northbound I-294 below the Lake Cook Road Bridge are currently closed and will remain closed during bridge reconstruction activities. Overnight lane closures are expected for bridge demolition and construction. Completion is scheduled for the end of 2008.

### **Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays**

The Tollway is coordinating bridge work with the Cook County Highway Department, the Illinois Department of Transportation and Lake County officials to minimize the impact to local roads. While we are working to minimize the impacts, delays are expected. On Lake Cook Road two lanes will be maintained in both directions on the bridge during reconstruction. The main Tollway impacts on this project will be shoulder closures and temporary overnight lane closures for bridge reconstruction and for beam erection activities. Lane closures on I-294 will be permitted during off-peak hours 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. A 35 m.p.h. speed limit will be in place on the Lake Cook Road Bridge, 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](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Schedule**

- The project began in December 2007.
- Spring 2008 - Long-term lane reductions on Lake Cook Road scheduled to begin
- Late 2008 - All work scheduled to be completed, including a third eastbound lane on Lake Cook Road east of I-294 and dual left turn lanes at the intersection of Lake Cook Road and Wilmot Road.

### **Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How**

Rebuilding and lengthening of the Lake Cook Road Bridge will allow the Tollway to widen the northbound lanes of I-294 underneath Lake Cook Road to provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. The Tollway will continue to coordinate this project with nearby businesses and local, county and state transportation and transit officials. 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](http://www.illinoistollway.com) & view the construction section, or call 1-800-TOLL-FYI.**

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