

## **Open Road Tolling Conversion ORT Now Available at All 20 Mainline Plazas**

The work to convert 20 mainline toll plazas to Open Road Tolling (ORT) for non-stop I-PASS travel, which began in the summer of 2005, is complete and all plazas are in their final configurations. In 2005 (Phase I), ORT lanes debuted at 9 toll plazas. ORT lanes were delivered at 11 more plazas in 2006, enabling the Tollway to deliver congestion-relief to motorists as soon as possible. In 2007, modifications were made in toll booth lanes at seven plazas. These projects were part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.



**Toll Plaza with Open Road Tolling**

**NOW OPEN: ORT lanes are now open at all 20 mainline toll plazas: Dixon, DeKalb, Aurora and York Road/Meyers Road (I-88); Edens Spur and Waukegan (I-94); South Beloit, Belvidere, Marengo, Elgin, Devon Avenue and River Road (I-90); Boughton Road and Army Trail Road (I-355); Irving Park, Touhy Avenue, Cermak Road, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street (I-294). ORT is also now available at the I-80 East and I-80 West ramp toll plazas on the South Tri-State Tollway (I-294/80).**

### **TOLL BOOTH RENOVATIONS COMPLETED**

**Cash plaza modifications were completed in 2007 at seven toll plazas: Edens Spur (I-94); Cermak Road, Irving Park Road, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street (I-294); and at Army Trail Road and Boughton Road (I-355). Work included pavement repairs, drainage work, and the installation of refurbished toll booths, signs, and overhead lighting. To minimize the impact to traffic, no more than two toll booth lanes were closed at a time at each plaza.**



**Open Road Tolling first debuted at the Irving Park Rd. toll plaza on November 13, 2005**

### **Minimized Impact to Reduce Delays**

The schedule for converting toll plazas to ORT was coordinated to keep as many I-PASS lanes open as possible during the conversion. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by plaza conversion as we worked hard to deliver Open Road Tolling and reduced travel times as quickly as possible.

### **Work Zone Safety**

Remember to drive safely in work zones where construction continues and abide by the posted 45 m.p.h. speed limit; see the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Schedule**

The schedule to complete conversion to Open Road Tolling was designed to deliver non-stop toll collection by the end of 2006 so customers could enjoy its benefits as soon as possible. Work was completed in two phases.

*Phase I:* Construction began in summer 2005 and ORT was delivered by the end of the year at nine plazas, including Boughton and Army Trail on I-355; Edens Spur on I-94; Irving Park Road, Touhy, Cermak, 82<sup>nd</sup> St. and 83<sup>rd</sup> St. on I-294 and the Aurora Toll Plaza on I-88.

*Phase II:* ORT lanes are now available at all 20 mainline toll plazas as ORT lanes opened in 2006 at York Road/Meyers Road, DeKalb and Dixon on I-88; River Road, Devon Avenue, Elgin, Marengo, Belvidere and South Beloit on I-90, Waukegan on I-94, and at 163<sup>rd</sup> Street on I-294.

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

The conversion from traditional toll plazas to a barrier-free system, the first in the nation in such a short time, is allowing I-PASS users to travel at highway speeds on the mainline while their tolls are collected electronically by a monotube overhead, reducing congestion and travel times. As a rule, each plaza has as many Open Road Tolling lanes after conversion as there are mainline lanes leading into or exiting the plaza. Vehicles without I-PASS must keep to the right to pay cash to toll collectors in smaller toll plazas, which does not impact the free-flow of traffic on the mainline. Separating I-PASS traffic from vehicles paying cash also improves safety at toll plazas.

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

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