



Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294), Rebuild & Widen Touhy Avenue Toll Plaza Rebuild

The Illinois Tollway is rebuilding the Touhy Avenue Toll Plaza as part of a project to reconstruct and widen to four lanes the 4.5-mile section of the Central Tri-State Tollway between Balmoral Avenue and Dempster Street in order to provide congestion relief and reduced travel times for Tollway customers. In addition to rebuilding the cash side of the Touhy Toll Plaza, a fourth Open Road Tolling (ORT) lane will be constructed. This work is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.

Update – Latest Construction Info

A new configuration is now in place at the Touhy Avenue Toll Plaza in the northbound lanes of I-294, the third of four stage changes expected between fall 2007 and next spring, with a winter construction configuration. The plaza currently features two ORT lanes and four cash toll booths in a small plaza on the right. When complete, the cash side of the Touhy Toll Plaza will include an I-PASS Only lane and five cash toll booths. A new collector-distributor road is in place for traffic leaving the plaza to rejoin the mainline or to exit at Touhy Avenue. The traffic shifts are also required to accommodate the completion of bridge construction at Touhy Avenue and Des Plaines River Road, just north of the plaza.

- **Stage 1** - Provides two ORT lanes; the third ORT lane is closed and traffic in that lane is directed to the cash side of the plaza on the right, rejoining mainline traffic just north of the plaza. In place for two months.
- **Stage 2** - The Touhy Avenue exit ramps reopened to traffic in late November, accessible only from the cash toll plaza via a single lane collector-distributor road that rejoins the mainline north of the interchange. Expected duration of Stage 2 is one week.
- **Stage 3** – The two ORT lanes shift to the right through the plaza and join with the single lane exiting the plaza on the collector-distributor road. Only traffic in the right lane coming out of the cash plaza will have access to the Touhy Avenue exit ramps. Expected duration of Stage 3 is one month.
- **Stage 4** – This stage will be in place through the winter. The right ORT lane remains closed, and the two open ORT lanes are shifted to the right, joining cash plaza traffic on the collector-distributor road. An I-PASS Only lane opens on the cash side of the toll plaza, which will also feature three cash tollbooths. All traffic planning to exit at Touhy Avenue is directed through the cash toll plaza and exits via the collector-distributor road. Work on the bridges north of the plaza will continue through the winter and all plaza construction will be complete in mid-2008.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

Three lanes of traffic will remain available in both directions during daytime hours throughout this project. Lane closures will be permitted off-peak only, to minimize the impact to traffic. Please see our Daily Lane Closures for specific daily lane closures per project.

Work Zone Safety

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

Schedule

The Central Tri-State Rebuild & Widen Project began in fall 2006, with work to rebuild and widen the northbound lanes continuing into mid-2008. Touhy Avenue Toll Plaza construction began in 2007 and will be complete in mid-2008. Southbound mainline work is expected to begin in late spring 2008. Project completion is scheduled for late 2009.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening this section of road to four lanes 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 in this section.

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

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