North Tri-State Tollway (I-294/94) Rebuild & Widen Project
Willow Road Reconstruction/Widening

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 Willow Road Bridge is a joint project with IDOT. The bridge is being reconstructed and widened in order to accommodate the Tollway's Rebuild & Widen Project that is already underway. As part of this project, the Tollway also will rebuild about a mile of Willow Road from Sanders Road to Landwehr Road. 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

Three lanes on the Willow Road Bridge over I-294 were opened to traffic in late December, several months ahead of schedule. Work will continue in spring 2008 to complete median and traffic signal work, requiring off-peak lane closures.

Minimizing Impact to Reduce Delays

The Tollway coordinated bridge work with IDOT and Cook and Lake County officials to minimize the impact to local roads. While we are working to minimize the impacts, delays are expected. One lane was maintained in both directions on the bridge to keep Willow Road open during reconstruction. There were minimal impacts to traffic on the Tri-State Tollway during bridge reconstruction. Lane closures were 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. A 35 speed limit will be in place on the bridge during 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

Early 2007 - Project began with lane reductions on Willow Road began.
December 2007 - Three lanes opened to traffic.
Summer 2008 – All work will be completed, including median and traffic signal work.

Purpose – Pertinent Details on Why and How

Rebuilding and widening the Willow Road Bridge will allow the Tollway to widen I-294 underneath Willow Road to provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. The Tollway will continue to coordinate this project with local, county and state transportation and transit officials.

For further information visit www.illinoistollway.com & view the construction section, or call 1-800-TOLL-FYI. **Updated 2-20-08**