



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 5, 2021**

## **OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) AND LAGRANGE ROAD RAMP**

*Ramp and temporary lane closures needed to safely accommodate bridge beam placement*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this week on the on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between the 83rd Street Toll Plaza and Archer Avenue for bridge beam placement for reconstruction of the Archer Avenue Bridge over I-294.

Altogether, five nights of intermittent, full closures in both directions will be needed on I-294, along with closures on the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294. The bridge reconstruction is part of the Tollway's work underway to prepare for roadway reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street.

"This work is necessary to keep the Tollway in good condition for years to come," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We work to limit lane closures to temporary overnight hours to minimize the impact of construction on daily commuters."

Beginning Wednesday, January 6, on I-294 one lane in both directions is scheduled to close at 8 p.m. each night, with a second lane closing at 9 p.m. and a third lane closing at 11 p.m. Intermittent, full closures of I-294, each lasting 15 minutes, will begin after midnight. All lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning. A second night of closures is scheduled Thursday, January 7, into Friday, January 8.

The additional nighttime closures will be scheduled on upcoming weeknights in January and will include 15-minute full closures of the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294 will be needed. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#).

Electronic message signs will be in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures. The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the placement of bridge beams. Bridge beam placement will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. All work is weather dependent.

To accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294, the Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the eastbound and westbound Archer Avenue Bridges over I-294, the eastbound Archer Avenue Bridge over 79<sup>th</sup> Street and the bridge carrying westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294. Ramp and local road improvements on Archer Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> Street will also be included as part of the construction. Work also includes drainage and lighting improvements and landscaping.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) .

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Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Justice and Village of Willow Springs as well as local fire and police departments.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

### **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. On I-294, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

The Illinois Tollway reminds motorists that the "Move Over Law" requires motorists to change lanes or to slow down and proceed with caution when passing any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights activated. If you see flashing lights ahead, please move over or slow down.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones or failure to comply with the Move Over Law. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$250 with up to a \$25,000 fine and a 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker. Penalties for failure to slow down or move over for a vehicle on the shoulder with flashing lights includes up to a \$10,000 fine, 2-year suspension of driving privileges and jail time, in extreme cases.

### **About Move Illinois**

The Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first nine years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor and opening a new interchange connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57. Progress continues on projects addressing the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system, delivering the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

### **About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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