

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 21, 2021

OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEK ON RAMPS CONNECTNG REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) AND TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Closures needed for bridge beam removal as part of Windsor Drive Bridge Project

DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled this week on the ramps connecting the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) for bridge beam removal as part of the reconstruction of the Windsor Drive Bridge in Oak Brook.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight closures. All work is weather dependent. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's <u>Daily Construction Alerts</u>.

"The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We work to limit these closures to temporary overnight work to minimize the impact of construction on daily commuters."

On Thursday, January 21, beginning at 7 p.m. the ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 and from northbound I-294 to westbound I-88 are scheduled to be reduced to a single lane.

In addition, shortly after midnight, temporary full closures, each lasting 15 minutes, are scheduled to begin on both ramps. The 15-minute closures are scheduled to end by 4 a.m. on Friday, January 22, and all ramp lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m.

If work cannot be completed during this time, a backup closure will be scheduled during the week of January 25.

Currently shoulders are closed on the two ramps and Windsor Drive is reduced to a single lane crossing the bridge with the temporary traffic signals maintaining bi-directional travel. Bridge traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through spring.

The Tollway's \$7.5 million Windsor Drive Bridge Project is removing the existing two-lane bridge carrying traffic over the Tollway ramps connecting I-88 and I-294 and replacing it with a new, wider bridge structure. The new bridge will provide four lanes on Windsor Drive along with a 10-foot-wide landscaped raised median and sidewalks in both directions.

Bridge replacement will also accommodate work underway by the Village of Oak Brook to widen Windsor Drive to four lanes between Swift Road and Cermak Road. In addition, the existing four-span bridge will be replaced with a two-span structure to improve Tollway maintenance and operations in the area and accommodate any ramp or roadway improvements needed in the future.

Additional work on this project includes, the reconstruction of outside shoulders on the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 and northbound I-294 to westbound I-88, along with erosion control and landscaping. All work is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021

This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. The Windsor Drive Bridge Project is being coordinated with the Village of Oak Brook as well as local fire and police departments. Currently, up to 6,500 vehicles use Windsor Drive daily.

Maps and construction information about the Windsor Drive Bridge Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com. Information about Oak Brook's Windsor Drive Widening and Streetscape Project is available on the village's website at www.oak-brook.org.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and Windsor Drive remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Work 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.

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 and can include 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* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st 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 planning for emerging projects, including 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.