



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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DEERPATH ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE ON REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) TO BEGIN IN MARCH FOR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Full closure of bridge in Aurora scheduled for nine months with posted detour

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway will begin work the week of March 15 to remove and rebuild the Deerpath Road Bridge on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora. To accommodate the work, the bridge is scheduled to be closed to traffic with a posted detour for nine months.

Full closure and a traffic detour are necessary because the Deerpath Road Bridge is too narrow to accommodate traffic while safely providing a work zone to complete the removal and reconstruction of the bridge. Currently, up to 6,950 vehicles use the Deerpath Road Bridge daily.

“The Illinois Tollway understands safety is just as important as access for drivers who use the Tollway to reach work and home, and we thank them for their patience,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “Closing the bridge allows us to safely complete this work in less time and minimize the inconvenience to customers.”

Beginning the week of March 15, the bridge is scheduled to close to traffic and a detour will be posted. The detour will route traffic via West Sullivan Road, Orchard Road and Orchard Gateway Boulevard.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance of construction, along with detour signage while the bridge closure is in place.



During construction, on I-88 overnight lane closures will be scheduled later this spring for bridge work.

Reconstruction of the Deerpath Road Bridge is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. As part of the Deerpath Road Bridge Project, the existing bridge carrying local traffic on Deerpath Road over the Tollway will be removed and replaced with a new, wider and higher structure. The existing bridge is more than 60 years old and will be replaced to extend the service life of the bridge and accommodate any future roadway improvements.

The new bridge will provide for two 13-foot lanes of traffic and 5-foot shoulders on Deerpath Road. In addition, the existing four-span structure will be replaced with a two-span bridge. This new structure was designed with any potential future improvements on I-88. Additional work on this project includes, the roadway reconstruction on I-88 under the bridge, as well as guardrail, landscaping and drainage improvements.

These repairs are necessary to extend the life of the local crossroad bridge and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

This project is being coordinated This project is being coordinated with the City of Aurora, Aurora Township, Sugar Grove Township, and Kane County, as well as local fire and police departments.

Maps and construction about the Deerpath Road Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at Illinoistollway.com.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and Deerpath Road 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.

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