



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2021

WORK BEGINNING ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT MAINLINE RECONSTRUCTION BETWEEN I-55 AND 95TH STREET

Lane closure and traffic shifts, including counterflow lanes, needed for work in 2021

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is resuming work on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project’s southern section between I-55 and 95th Street, including the start of work to reconstruct and widen the roadway to five lanes in both directions.

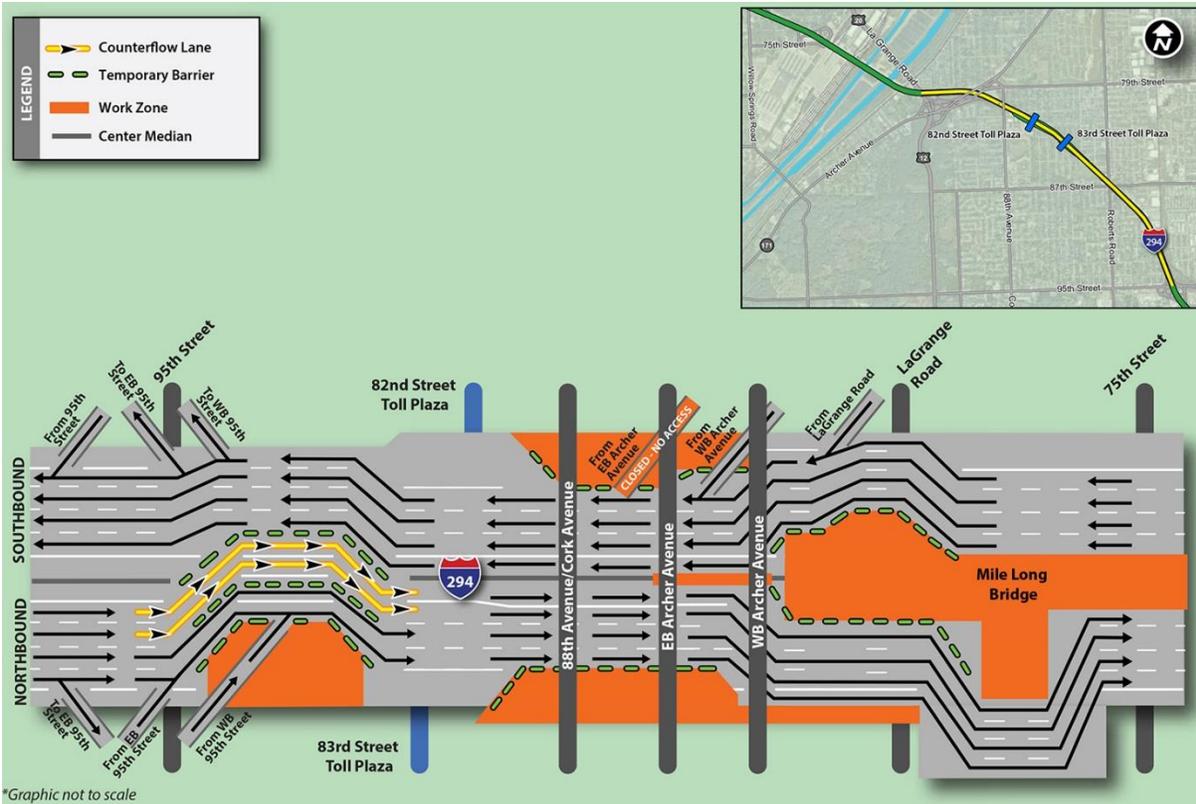
Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns and construction throughout the construction season. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s Daily Construction Alerts.

“The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring the roadway remains safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of our overall commitment to roadway safety,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We ask drivers to be attentive in work zones by watching for changing traffic patterns and using caution, especially when workers are present.”

As work resumes for the 2021 construction season, daily shoulder closures and overnight lane closures will be scheduled as needed between 95th Street and LaGrange Road for installation of temporary lighting along the roadway and protective shielding under 87th Street and Roberts Road bridges, as well as pavement patching and rumble strip removal.

Once this advance work is complete, traffic shifts will be put in place on I-294 between the 82nd Street Toll Plaza and 95th Street. On southbound I-294, four lanes of traffic will remain open and shifted to the right. On northbound I-294, four lanes of traffic will be shifted to the left, with two northbound lanes traveling in a counterflow lane on the southbound side of I-294.

Between LaGrange Road and the 82nd Street Toll Plaza, traffic in both directions will be shifted to the outside shoulders in both directions to accommodate construction work.



Additional traffic shifts will be scheduled later this spring, including in both directions on I-294 between the Mile Long Bridge and I-55, as well as on the ramps connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to I-55. Additional traffic shifts, lane reductions and ramp detours will be scheduled needed to complete work between I-55 and 95th Street.

The traffic shifts and counterflow lane are scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of 2021 as work begins to reconstruct and widen I-294 between I-55 and 95th Street.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Burr Ridge, City of Countryside, City of Hickory Hills, Village of Hodgkins, Village of Indian Head, Village of Justice, as well as local fire and police departments.

Work in this southern section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95th Street includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road, as well as reconstructing shoulders including adding Flex Lanes and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Construction in the southern section of Central Tri-State Tollway Project started in 2019 with the Mile Long Bridge Project. Work to prepare for mainline reconstruction and widening began in 2020, including work to reconstruct the Archer Avenue Interchange. Work in this section also includes working with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways and the Village of Justice to build a new interchange at 88th/Cork Avenue. In addition, improvements will also be made to local crossroad bridges, including Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue, and the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is also scheduled to be rebuilt.

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

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th 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 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.

#