



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 16, 2021**

## **RECONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS AT I-290/ST CHARLES ROAD INTERCHANGE FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT**

*Bridge and ramp reconstruction will require ramp detours, as well as traffic reductions on St. Charles Road*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is beginning work on the St. Charles Road Interchange at I-290 as part of the work to reconfigure the I-290/I-88 Interchange on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294). Construction including improvements on the St. Charles Road Bridges over I-294 and I-290, as well as rebuilding four ramps that connect St. Charles Road to I-290, in Berkley and Elmhurst, is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022.

“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 will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits.”

In 2021 and 2022, the Illinois Tollway will be reconstructing the St. Charles Road Interchange at I-290. This work includes removing and replacing the St. Charles Road Bridge over I-294 and repairing and replacing the bridge deck on the bridge over I-290. In addition, the four interchange ramps on the east side of I-290 will be reconstructed and a portion of westbound I-290 will be widened. Additional work includes retaining wall construction, drainage improvements and roadway lighting improvements.

Ramp closures will be needed during construction, and additional traffic shifts and lane closures will be scheduled on ramps, St. Charles Road, I-294 and I-290 to complete the work. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns and detours throughout construction. All work is weather dependent and up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s Daily Construction Alerts.

Work has started with daily lane closures on St. Charles Road to prepare for a traffic shift and start of bridge work. Over the next two weeks, lane closures will be scheduled between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. reducing St. Charles Road to one lane in both directions between Taft Avenue and Poplar Avenue. On I-290, full closures will be needed to prepare for work on the St. Charles Road Bridge. On I-294, traffic is currently shifted in both directions between Electric Avenue and St. Charles Road.

Once advance work is complete, St. Charles Road will be reduced to one lane in each direction and shifted to the eastbound lanes over I-294 and I-290 to accommodate bridge removal and reconstruction. Work on the bridges over I-294 and I-290 will be conducted one half at a time, to provide a work zone and safety accommodate St. Charles Road traffic. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through September when all traffic will be shifted to the westbound lanes.

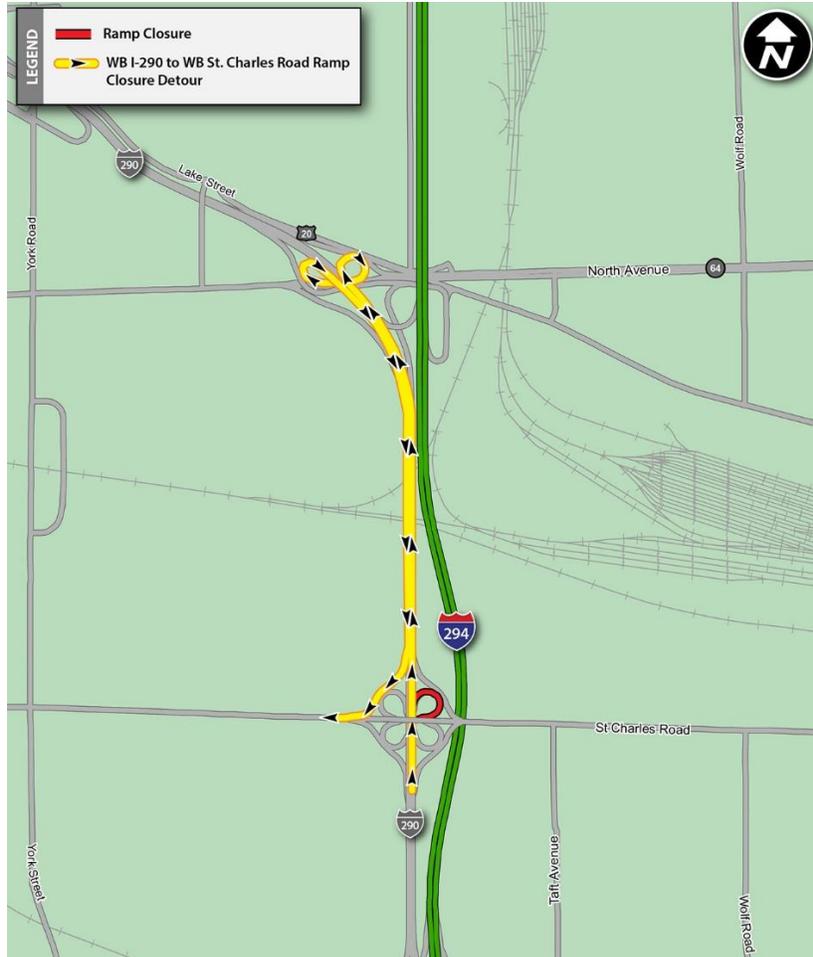
In addition, in 2021, work will include reconstruction of the two ramps connecting westbound St. Charles Road to westbound I-290. In order to accommodate this work, the ramps are scheduled to be closed to traffic with posted detours. The ramp closures are anticipated to begin in early April and will remain closed through 2021.

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Westbound St. Charles Road traffic traveling to westbound I-290 will be routed through the other open ramps at the interchange and onto I-290.



Westbound I-290 traffic exit to westbound St. Charles Road, traffic will be directed to continue north the North Avenue Interchange and back onto eastbound I-290 to reach westbound St. Charles Road.



Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Village of Berkeley and City of Northlake, as well as local fire and police departments.

The Illinois Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway Project includes the reconstruction of the interchange ramps connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and I-290, to reduce congestion, improve safety and address operational issues as well as infrastructure conditions. Construction on the I-290/I-88 Interchange Project at I-294 is scheduled for 2020 through 2026.

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.

Information including maps, construction updates and a Virtual Open House is available on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) in the Projects section.

### 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. On St. Charles Road, a 30 mph work zone speed limit is in effect.

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 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.

