



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2021

CLOSURES, DETOUR SCHEDULED ON JOLIET ROAD AND RAMPS CONNECTING CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) AND I-55

Shoulder closures also begin on Wolf Road at I-294 for bridge abutment work

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin work this weekend to implement long-term closures on Monday, March 29, on eastbound Joliet Road under the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and on ramps connecting I-55 and I-294 to eastbound Joliet Road to accommodate reconstruction of the I-294 bridge over Joliet Road. This work is part of the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway.

In addition, overnight Sunday, March 28, into Monday, March 29 intermittent, full 15-minute closures are scheduled on northbound I-294 and on the ramps connecting northbound I-294 to I-55 for aerial cable work, with similar closures also scheduled for Monday into Tuesday, March 30.

Electronic message and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers on Joliet Road, I-294 and I-55 to the construction work zones and lane closures. The full closures with detours are needed in this area because the Tollway cannot accommodate traffic and provide a safe work zone for bridge abutment construction. All work is weather dependent.

During the weekend of March 26, work will be underway to prepare for the roadway and ramp closures scheduled to be put in place by 5 a.m. Monday, March 29. The ramps connecting northbound I-55 and southbound I-294 to eastbound Joliet Road will close, as will a portion of eastbound Joliet Road. In addition, as a result of these closures, traffic on Roofers Road will not have direct access to Joliet Road and will need to access Joliet Road via Wolf Road.

Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through mid-April for Tollway construction work. In addition, the Illinois Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin work on an adjacent project in March and may require additional closures on Joliet Road.

Throughout the roadway and ramp closures a posted detour will be in place directing traffic to continue on northbound I-55 to LaGrange Road and from there travel north to Joliet Road. The westbound lanes on Joliet Road will remain open to traffic.



Also in this area, work is scheduled to begin on the I-294 bridge over Wolf Road in Indian Head Park. Beginning the week of March 29, shoulders on Wolf Road under I-294 will be closed for bridge abutment construction. Additional lane closures and traffic shifts will be needed to complete the work at this location.

Local road closures in this area are being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways and the Village of Indian Head Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

Construction on bridges and ramps in and around the I-55 Interchange is part of the Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway Project rebuilding and widening I-294 between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street. In 2021, the Tollway's work in the I-55 Interchange area will begin to accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294 between 75th Street and I-55. As part of this work, the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 will be reconstructed, along with the I-294 bridges over I-55, Wolf Road, Joliet Road and Flagg Creek. Additional work includes the reconstruction of the Plainfield Road Bridge over I-294 and the northbound ramp to the Hinsdale Oasis. Construction in this area is scheduled to be complete in 2025.

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.

Information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available on the Tollway's website at 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 Butterfield Road, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect. 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 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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