



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 14, 2021**

**NORTHBOUND COUNTERFLOW BEGINS ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)  
BETWEEN 95<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND THE 83<sup>RD</sup> STREET TOLL PLAZA**

*Local road lane closures scheduled on Roberts Road and 87<sup>th</sup> Street  
to accommodate bridge reconstruction*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Beginning this week, northbound traffic on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 95<sup>th</sup> Street and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Street Toll Plaza is scheduled to be shifted into a counterflow configuration with two lanes traveling on the southbound side for mainline bridge reconstruction as part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. In addition, lane closures on local roads underneath the Tollway will begin later this month as part of this work.

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."

Overnight Thursday, April 15, all northbound traffic on I-294 between the 83<sup>rd</sup> Street Toll Plaza and 95<sup>th</sup> Street will be shifted to the left with two northbound lanes traveling in counterflow lanes on the southbound side of I-294. Work will begin at 8 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 10 p.m. and closure of a third lane at midnight to move northbound traffic. Southbound traffic is currently shifted to the right to accommodate the new traffic pattern. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Friday, April 16.

Once the counterflow is in place, during the week of April 19, I-294 traffic between 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and LaGrange Road will be shifted in both directions to provide a work zone for roadway reconstruction and widening work.

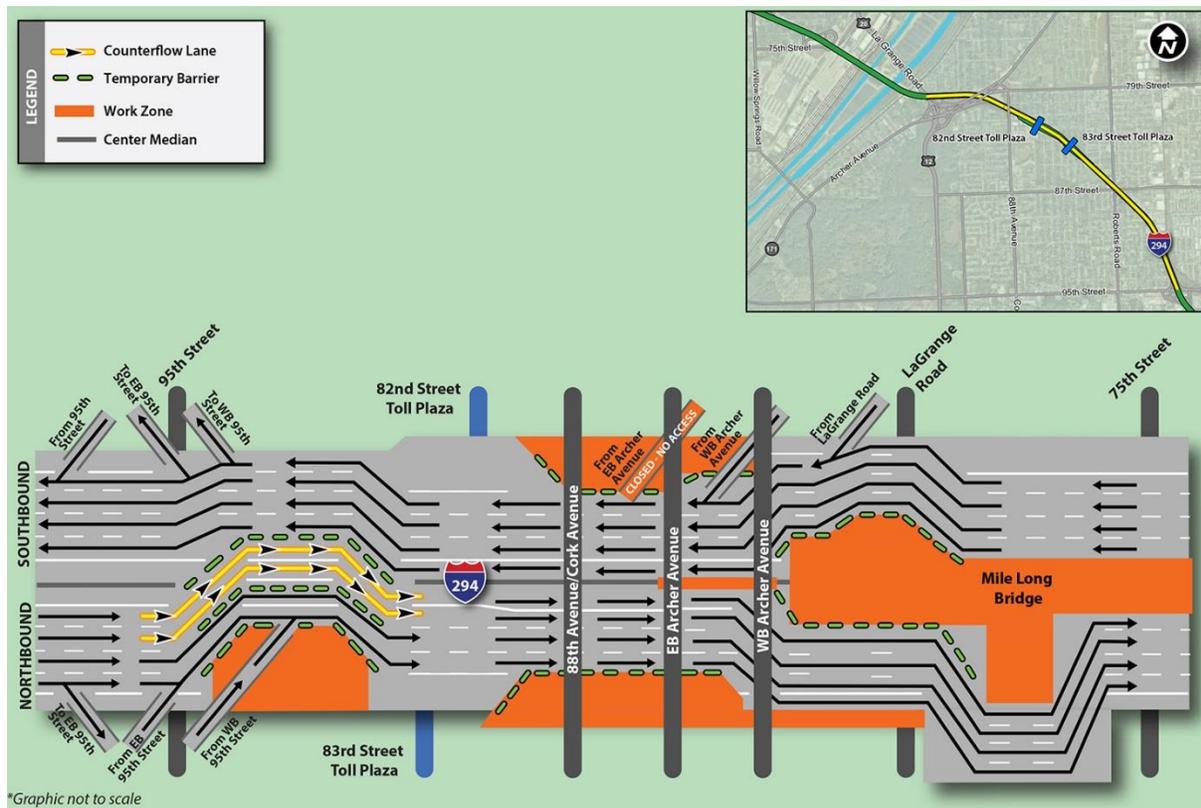
Mainline I-294 traffic in the area is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer. Four lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions.

In addition, during the week of April 19, on both Roberts Road and 87<sup>th</sup> Street lane closures will be put in place in both directions underneath I-294 to accommodate reconstruction of the I-294 mainline bridge over the local roads. On both roads, overnight, full roadway closures with detours will be scheduled to safely accommodate removal and replacement of bridge beams. However, to reduce disruption to traffic in the area, both roads will not be closed at the same time.

Additional lane closures on both I-294 and the local roads will be scheduled as needed throughout the construction season to complete mainline bridge reconstruction.

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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](http://www.illinoistollway.com).



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 95<sup>th</sup> 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, 87<sup>th</sup> 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 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue. In addition, improvements will also be made to local crossroad bridges, including Willow Springs Road and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is also scheduled to be rebuilt.

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.

### **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 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.

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