



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)
FOR BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY BRIDGE PROJECT**
*Six nights of 15-minute full lane closures needed in May to safely accommodate bridge beam
placement*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this weekend on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 55th Street and Ogden Avenue for bridge beam placement for reconstruction of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge over the Tollway. Altogether, six nights of intermittent, full closures on I-294 – three nights in each direction – will be needed to complete the beam installation work.

“As part of the Illinois Tollway’s dedication to safety, we are committed to prioritizing the safety of both drivers and workers during construction,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We understand the inconvenience that this approach to roadwork can cause, so we are always working to find ways when possible to reduce the impact of this disruption to our customers.”

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures. The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the placement of bridge beams. Bridge beam placement will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. All work is weather dependent.

Beginning Sunday, May 2, three nights of lane closures will be scheduled on northbound I-294. Overnight closures will begin at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 9 p.m. and a third lane closure at midnight. Intermittent, full closures of I-294, each lasting up to 15 minutes, will begin after midnight. All northbound lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. each following morning.

Once bridge beam placement is complete over northbound I-294, three nights of lane closures will be scheduled for bridge beam placement over southbound I-294. Overnight bridge construction on southbound I-294, including full roadway closures, will follow the same schedule as the work on northbound I-294.

Following installation of new bridge beams, ongoing nightly lane closures will be scheduled as needed this spring for bridge construction. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#).

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the BNSF Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad over I-294 between Hinsdale and Western Springs, to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of the Tollway underneath. The new fourth track on the bridge will be used for maintenance purposes by BNSF.

The BNSF Railway Bridge Project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with local municipalities, park districts, as well as police and fire departments.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction information about the BNSF Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

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 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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