



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BEGINS WORK TO REBUILD PLAINFIELD ROAD BRIDGE OVER CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) NEAR WESTERN SPRINGS

Bridge improvements will accommodate Central Tri-State Tollway rebuilding and widening and Cook County improvement planning

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway will begin work this week to remove and rebuild the Plainfield Road Bridge over the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and Flagg Creek near Western Springs.

The Plainfield Road Bridge will remain open to traffic throughout construction with up to 14,200 vehicles using the bridge daily.

Reconstruction of the Plainfield Road Bridge 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 and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits.”

Advance work is scheduled to begin during the week of July 12, with off-peak lane closures and shoulder closures on northbound I-294 for temporary pavement and barrier wall work. In addition, on Plainfield Road advance work will begin to remove guardrail, adjacent trees and prepare temporary pavement with shoulder closures.

Once the advance work is complete, in late July daytime lane closures will be scheduled on Plainfield Road to install barrier walls to create a construction work zone. Traffic in both directions on the Plainfield Road Bridge will be shifted on the north side of the bridge so work can begin to remove and rebuild the south side. One lane of traffic in both directions will be maintained in the construction work zone on Plainfield Road throughout construction.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers to lane closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits. Up-to-date information regarding closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

The existing local road bridge carrying Plainfield Road traffic over the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is being removed and rebuilt with a new, longer and higher bridge structure to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. In addition, Cook County is currently conducting a study for the improvements of Plainfield Road, and the new bridge will be built to ensure compatibility with future plans.

The new Plainfield Road Bridge structure will provide for one lane of traffic and wide shoulders in each direction. To provide for local pedestrian and bicycle access, a protected sidewalk will be included on the north side of the bridge and a new a protected bicycle/multi-use path and sidewalk will be built on the south side.

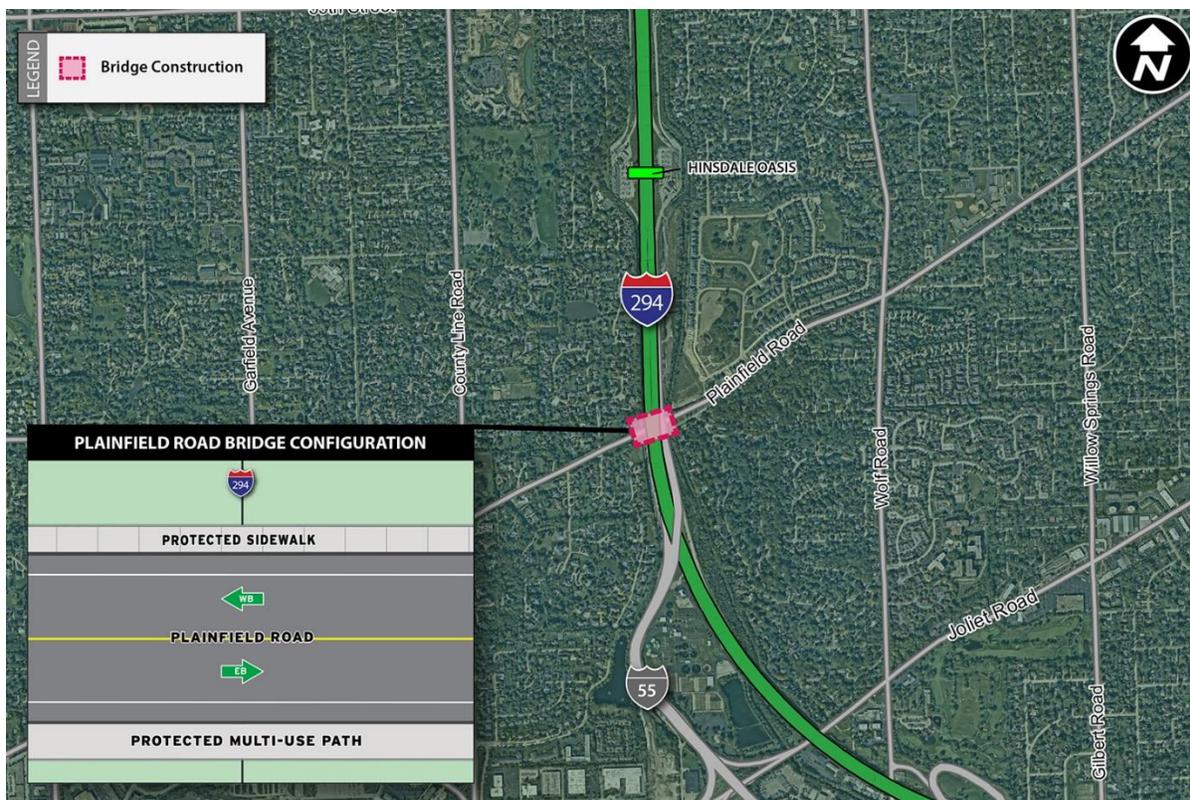
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Additional work on this project includes restoration of retaining and noisewalls, sewer construction, utility work, lighting, landscaping and drainage improvements.

This project is being coordinated with Cook County, Village of Burr Ridge, Village of Indian Head Park and Village of Western Springs, as well as local fire and police departments.

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 Plainfield Road, a 35 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect throughout construction. 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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