



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 30, 2021**

## **DEERPETH ROAD BRIDGE OVER REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) SET TO REOPEN**

*Bridge reconstruction work complete; landscaping, other minor work scheduled for later this year*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Tollway is preparing to reopen the new Deerpath Road Bridge over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora ahead of schedule and plans to reopen the local crossroad bridge to traffic tomorrow afternoon, Friday, October 1.

“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.”

The local crossroad bridge in Aurora was closed to traffic in March, with a posted detour, for removal and reconstruction and is reopening to traffic about two months ahead of schedule. Up to 6,950 vehicles use the bridge carrying traffic over I-88 daily.

Temporary, off-peak lane closures may be scheduled as needed as work will continue to complete punch-list items and landscaping for the Deerpath Road Bridge Project.

As part of the Deerpath Road Bridge Project, the existing bridge carrying local traffic on Deerpath Road over the Tollway was removed and replaced with a new, longer and higher structure. The old bridge was more than 60 years old and was replaced to extend the service life of the bridge and accommodate any future roadway improvements.

The new bridge provides for two 13-foot lanes of traffic and 5-foot shoulders on Deerpath Road. In addition, the previous four-span structure was replaced with a two-span bridge. Additional work on this project included, the roadway reconstruction on I-88 under the bridge, as well as guardrail, landscaping and drainage improvements.

These repairs are necessary to extend the life of the local crossroad bridge and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. This work is part of the Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

This project was coordinated with the City of Aurora, Aurora Township, Sugar Grove Township, and Kane County, as well as local fire and police departments.

Maps and construction about the Deerpath Road Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway’s website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

### **Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and Deerpath Road remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency’s overall commitment to roadway safety.

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Work 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.

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 and can include 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* are 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.

