



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2021

GRAND AVENUE LANE CLOSURES AND DETOURS SCHEDULED UNDER THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) NEAR FRANKLIN PARK

Overnight closures needed to safely accommodate mainline I-294 bridge beam placement

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Overnight roadway closures and detours are scheduled to begin this week on Grand Avenue underneath the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to accommodate bridge beam placement for the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. Full roadway closures and detours are necessary to safely provide a work zone and accommodate traffic as the Tollway rebuilds the I-294 bridge carrying traffic over Grand Avenue. All work is weather dependent.

On Friday, October 8, beginning at 9 p.m. Grand Avenue will be closed to traffic in both directions between Northwest Avenue and County Line Road. In addition, one right lane on southbound I-294 at Grand Avenue will be closed during the beam placement work. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Saturday, October 9. Similar closures are scheduled to occur on Monday, October 11 into Tuesday, October 12.

Detours for both eastbound and westbound Grand Avenue traffic will be posted during the overnight roadway closures.

- Westbound Grand Avenue traffic will be detoured south on Mannheim Road (U.S. Route 12/U.S. Route 45), west on North Avenue (Illinois Route 64) and north on Kingery Highway (Illinois Route 83) to access westbound Grand Avenue.
- Eastbound Grand Avenue traffic will be detoured south on Kingery Highway (Illinois Route 83) via the Lake Street on ramp and then east on North Avenue (Illinois Route 64) and north on Mannheim Road (U.S. Route 12/U.S. Route 45) to access eastbound Grand Avenue.

If all the bridge beam placement work cannot be completed during this time, a third night of closures and detours will be scheduled overnight Tuesday, October 12, into Wednesday, October 13.



Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, DuPage County, the City of Elmhurst, the City of Northlake and the Village of Franklin Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

Reconstruction and widening work on the Central Tri-State Tollway between Balmoral Avenue and St. Charles Road began in June 2018 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024. Work in this northern section of the Central Tri-State includes repairing, resurfacing and widening I-294 between Balmoral Avenue and St. Charles Road along with improvements to medians, bridges and ramps, as well as reconstructing the inside shoulders to include Flex Lanes.

Work in this section also includes construction of the new I-490/I-294 Interchange with two new ramp bridges that will provide access for the new I-490 Tollway and a new southbound exit ramp from I-294 to County Line Road between Grand Avenue and North Avenue. Improvements as part of this project also include guardrail, drainage, lighting and signage installation, as well as landscaping improvements.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

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.

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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