



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED AT TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE PROJECT *Winter construction will continue on bridge piers, abutments as weather allows*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to begin shifting traffic next week to move the Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Project into winter configuration with construction work scheduled to continue as weather allows.

“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, as we prepare for the winter season.”

Winter traffic configurations are scheduled to be in place next week on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and by December 15 on I-57. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns. Up-to-date information regarding closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

On Monday, December 6, on southbound I-294 all lanes are scheduled to reopen to traffic. Northbound I-294 traffic is already in its normal configuration.

Overnight Wednesday, December 8, on northbound I-57 traffic will be reduced to a single lane and the two ramps connecting northbound I-57 to 147th Street will be closed in order to shift traffic. All lanes and ramps are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, in advance of morning rush hour.

During the week of December 13, on southbound I-57 traffic is scheduled to return to its normal configuration. In addition, a portion of the newly constructed collector-distributor road is scheduled to open to allow access to the ramps to 147th Street.

During the winter months, construction will continue on the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project as weather permits. Work will continue on the median barrier wall on I-57 with shoulder closures and the ramp connecting southbound I-294 to southbound I-57 will remain reduced to a single lane to accommodate the ongoing construction. In addition, bridge work is scheduled to continue on the southbound I-57 to southbound I-294 ramp bridge, as well as on I-57 over the CSX Railroad. On I-294, the outside shoulder is scheduled to remain closed through winter for roadway signage, lighting and utility work.

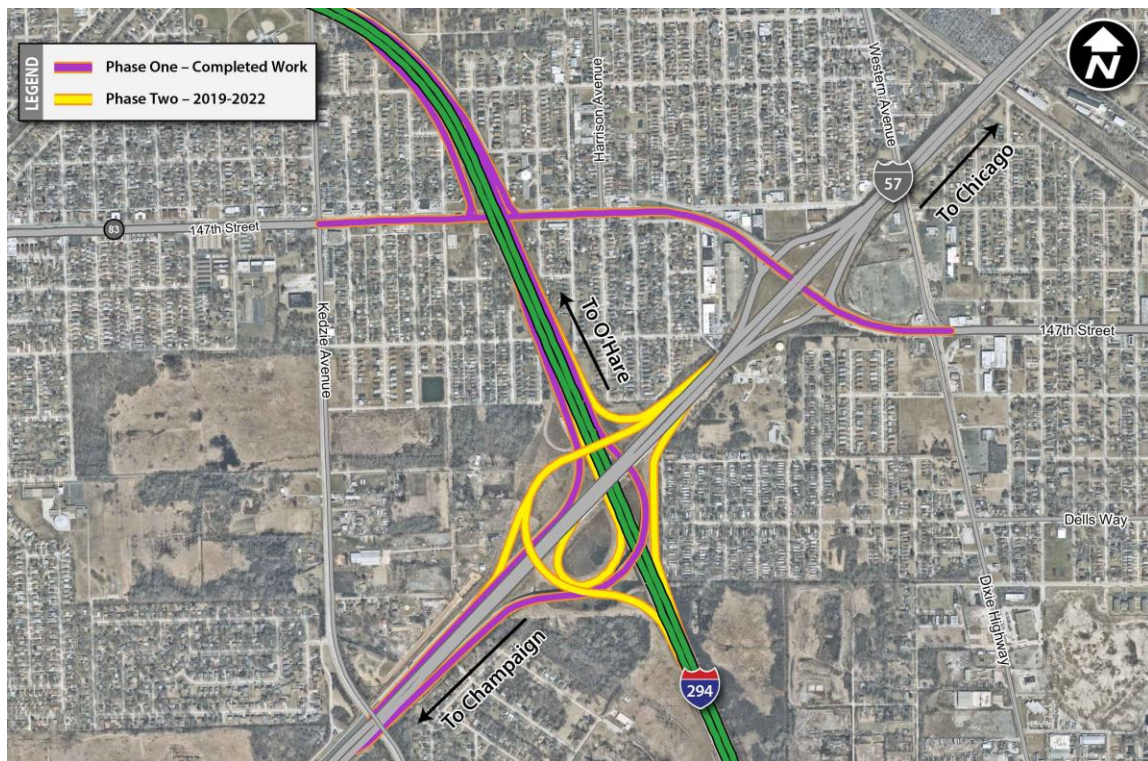
This work is part of the second phase of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project, which is building four new ramps to connect southbound I-57 to I-294 and I-294 to northbound I-57, including the flyover ramp bridge. The flyover ramp bridge will carry traffic from southbound I-57 to southbound I-294 and from 147th to southbound I-57. The multi-span structure will be 2,649 feet long with a bridge deck approximately 16 feet above I-294 and 17 feet above I-57. Interchange construction is scheduled to continue into 2022.

Additional work on this project includes the reconstruction of the I-57 median and the widening of the I-57 mainline, as well as drainage improvements, erosion and sediment control, retaining wall and bridge construction.

Maps and construction information about the Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange Project is available in the Project's section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The \$719 million I-294/I-57 Interchange Project is funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.

The new interchange is improving travel by providing customers with completed access between the two interstates. For the first time, the new I-294/I-57 Interchange provides motorists with access between I-294 and I-57, including a new interchange at 147th Street. The complete interchange will reduce congestion on local routes, enhance economic development and improve regional mobility. The all-electronic interstate-to-interstate connection better serves commuters and freight operators while opening access for local communities.



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 55 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season. On I-57, work zone speed limits will also be 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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