



Central Tri-State Tollway Project

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is being reconstructed from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street to provide congestion relief, reconstruct old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand, and address regional needs.

Work in 2021 includes:

Roadway reconstruction, including between the O'Hare Oasis and Wolf Road to provide five lanes in each direction; between St. Charles Road and Wolf Road to provide six southbound lanes and five northbound lanes; between I-55 and 75th Street to provide five lanes in each direction; and between LaGrange Road and 95th Street build five lanes in each direction.

Work to rehabilitate the Bensenville Railroad Yard Bridge.

Construction to reconfigure the I-290/I-88 Interchange including new bridges over Butterfield Road, the CSX Railroad and I-290 and construction of new lanes connecting northbound I-294 to I-290.

Continuation of the reconstruction of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge.

Ongoing construction to rebuild the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 and rebuild the Plainfield Road Bridge over I-294 and Flagg Creek.

Completion of work to rebuild bridges carrying Archer Avenue over I-294, as well as eastbound Archer Avenue over 79th Street and westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294.

Continuation of the reconstruction of the Mile Long Bridge between Hodgkins and Willow Springs.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project will rebuild and widen the roadway to increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability.

The project includes reconfiguring the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294, rebuilding the Mile Long Bridge and the BNSF

Railway Bridge, as well as integrating Flex Lanes and SmartRoad technology.

Northern Section: Balmoral Avenue to North Avenue

Work in the northern section began in June 2018 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024. The Tollway will repair pavement and rebuild and widen roadway between Balmoral Avenue and North Avenue and deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as reconstruct shoulders to accommodate Flex Lanes.

Bridges carrying I-294 over Irving Park Road, Lawrence Avenue and the Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park will be reconstructed, and improvements will be made to local crossroad bridges including Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road.

As part of this work, the O'Hare Oasis over-the-road pavilion was removed in 2019 to accommodate roadway widening. The 7-Eleven fuel stations and parking lots remain and the Tollway will coordinate redevelopment with Schiller Park.

Ramp improvements include reconstructing portions of the ramps connecting the O'Hare Oasis and Irving Park Road to I-294, as well as coordination with the North Avenue Interchange Project with Cook County.

Construction in this section also includes roadway and ramp improvements in coordination with construction of the I-490/I-294 Interchange to support the new I-490 Tollway Project.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

Completed work in this section includes roadway reconstruction between Balmoral Avenue and the O'Hare Oasis providing five lanes in both directions, reconstruction of the bridges carrying I-294 over Irving Park Road, Lawrence Avenue and the Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park and improvements to local crossroad bridges including Balmoral Avenue.

Central Section: North Avenue to I-55

Work in the central section between North Avenue and I-55 is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026.

Mainline construction between North Avenue and I-55 is currently scheduled to begin in 2022 and continue through 2025. The Tollway will rebuild and widen the roadway, and deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as deliver reconstruct shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

As part of this work, the Hinsdale Oasis over-the-road pavilion will be removed to accommodate roadway widening. The 7-Eleven fuel stations and parking lots will remain and the Tollway will coordinate redevelopment with Hinsdale.

As part of the work in this section, the Tollway will reconfigure and improve the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294, with construction scheduled for 2020-2026.

The BNSF Railway Bridge over I-294 is being reconstructed and lengthened with completion scheduled in 2022. In addition, improvements will be made to local crossroad bridges including St. Charles Road, Cermak Road, 31st Street, 47th Street, 55th Street and Plainfield Road and St. Charles Road over I-290.

In addition, the existing pedestrian bridge located between the BNSF Railroad and Ogden Avenue will be removed and replaced with a new pedestrian bridge adjacent to 47th Street, scheduled to be in place by the fall of 2022.

Advance work includes utility work and improvements in coordination with the Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District to relocate existing sewer lines adjacent to I-294.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

Southern Section: I-55 to 95th Street

Work in the southern section between I-55 and 95th Street began in 2019 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

The Tollway will rebuild and widen the roadway to five lanes in both directions, and deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as deliver reconstruct shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

Work in the southern section includes reconstruction of the twin structures that make up the Mile Long Bridge carrying traffic over two major railroads, three water resources and local roads, and over a major distribution center for UPS and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.

As part of the work in this section, the Tollway will work with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Justice to build a new interchange at 88th/Cork Avenue.

The ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is will be rebuilt adjacent to the existing structure. In addition, at Archer Avenue, new bridges will be built carrying Archer Avenue over I-294 and carrying eastbound Archer Avenue over 79th Street and westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp carrying southbound

LaGrange Road to I-294.

Improvements to local crossroad bridges include Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

Completed work in this section includes completion of the northbound structure for the new Mile Long Bridge.

Customer Impacts

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to scheduled bridge closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.

Shoulder closures and traffic shifts will be used to provide room for a work zone and safely accommodate traffic. Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

In addition, lane closures will be scheduled as needed on the Tollway and local roads to complete work. In addition, several detours of ramps and local road will be needed throughout 2021 for work along the corridor.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

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. 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 and 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.

Visit the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at illinoistollway.com.

PURPOSE

The Central Tri-State Tollway is being reconstructed to increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability. 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 this portion of the Tri-State Tollway daily.

Agency Coordination

The Central Tri-State Tollway crosses two counties and impacts more than 30 local communities, plus numerous other agencies. Outreach and coordination with all these entities is an important part of the work the Illinois Tollway has done and continues to do on the Central Tri-State Reconstruction Project.

The Illinois Tollway works closely with residents, communities, businesses and elected officials to plan for and implement improvements on I-294. Hosting public open house meetings and community outreach meetings, the Tollway is working with residents and businesses to provide information and answers to questions.

Included in the many agencies that the project is being coordinated with are: the Illinois Department of Transportation, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Department of Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Highway Administration, Cook County, DuPage County and more than 30 local communities, as well as local fire and police departments.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In addition to reducing the cost of this work, reuse of these materials reduces the need for virgin asphalt materials and reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and the volume of material that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

GETTING TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- illinoistollway.com – Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.