ELGIN O’HARE WESTERN ACCESS PROJECT

Elmhurst Road Interchange Project at I-90

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2016, work continues to build the new Elmhurst Road Interchange on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90). The Illinois Tollway will complete the construction of a new ramps, as well as the bridge carrying Elmhurst Road traffic over the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90). Work also includes reconstruction and widening of Elmhurst Road and improvements to the intersection of Elmhurst Road and Oakton Street.

The $54 million Elmhurst Road Interchange Project will complete the existing partial interchange that currently only provides access to and from the east. This work is part of the Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project and is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

Construction Update (12-23-16)

The reconstructed eastbound I-90 entrance and westbound I-90 exit ramps are open to traffic with ongoing construction adjacent to Elmhurst Road.

Opening of the new westbound I-90 entrance ramp and the new eastbound I-90 exit ramp and the diverging diamond traffic pattern have been rescheduled to 2017.

The Tollway in coordination with IDOT has determined that maintaining the current interchange access is the best and safest plan for winter travel and maintenance.

Traffic shifts will remain in place on Elmhurst Road and construction will be ongoing as weather permits through the winter to complete installation of new permanent traffic signals, lighting and pavement markings necessary to safely open the interchange in the new diverging diamond configuration.

PROJECT SUMMARY

A new, diverging diamond interchange will be constructed at I-90 and Elmhurst Road. Diverging diamond interchanges are designed to eliminate left turns in front of oncoming traffic, smooth traffic flow and reduce congestion. Right turns work the same as they do at conventional interchanges, and traffic is controlled by signals.

The project includes construction of two new bridge structures to carry southbound and northbound Elmhurst Road traffic over I-90. The new bridge will feature a shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists in the median of the northbound bridge.

In addition, existing ramps carrying traffic to and from the east will be reconstructed and new ramps to provide access to and from the west will be built.

Additional work on this project includes the reconstruction of the Elmhurst Road Bridge over Higgins Creek and the reconstruction and widening of Elmhurst Road from two lanes to three, which began in spring 2015 and continue into 2017.

Oakton Street Intersection

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing and widening the intersection of Oakton Street, from Lexington Drive to Short Terrace, to accommodate the widened section of Elmhurst Road that crosses through it. Additional dual left-turn lanes will be added in all directions along with a dedicated northbound right-turn lane from Elmhurst Road to Oakton Street.

Traffic Impacts

Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction. The Elmhurst Road Bridge and all existing ramp access will remain open during construction.

In 2016, the Elmhurst Road Bridge Project will require traffic shifts and reduced speed limits on I-90 for work to construct the new bridge structure.

Toll Collection Information

As part of the Elmhurst Road Interchange Project, ramp toll collection equipment will be installed to provide cashless tolling with I-PASS or Pay Online lanes on the new ramps carrying traffic to and from the west.

Cars with I-PASS will pay 55 cents and for trucks tolls will range from $1.70 to $4.50 during daytime hours, with overnight discounts offered.

Customers without I-PASS can pay their tolls online at the cash rate within the seven-day grace period. The cash rate is

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$1.10 for cars. For more information about how to obtain an I-PASS, please visit www.illinoistollway.com.

PURPOSE
New bridges and ramps will be constructed at the interchange to provide full access between I-90 and Elmhurst Road.

The current interchange at Elmhurst Road and I-90 is a partial interchange providing westbound exit and eastbound entrance access only. These ramps were built in 1958 as part of the original construction of I-90.

The project cost is estimated at $54 million. These improvements are part of the $3.4 billion Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project, which is included in the Tollway’s 15-year, $12 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future.

BUILDING GREEN
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.

All of the existing pavement on Elmhurst Road, as well as ramp pavements will be recycled into the new pavement or asphalt mixes.

Supplemental cements such as fly ash and ground blast furnace steel slag from industrial waste are green materials that will be part of the concrete pavements.

Recycled asphalt pavement, recycled asphalt shingles and warm-mix asphalt will be used in the asphalt mixtures.

WORK ZONE SAFETY
The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and Elmhurst Road remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency’s overall commitment to roadway safety.

A 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect on Elmhurst Road. On I-90 a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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.

Work zone speed limits, along with temporary lane closures, shoulder closures and traffic shifts are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate construction. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the scheduled lane closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.
