



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2022

OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) FOR BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY BRIDGE PROJECT

Lane closures needed in February to safely accommodate bridge beam removal

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin next week on the on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 55th Street and Ogden Avenue as work to rebuild the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge over the Tollway nears completion.

Overnight lane closures, including intermittent, full closures on I-294 – at least two nights in each direction – are anticipated for work to remove the temporary bypass bridge structure used to allow for uninterrupted commuter rail and freight operations during reconstruction of the BNSF Railway Bridge. The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the removal of bridge beams, and this work will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic.

All work is weather dependent and electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures as they are scheduled. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alerts](#).

Beginning the week of Monday, February 7, lane closures will be scheduled on northbound I-294. Overnight closures will begin at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 9 p.m. and a third lane closure at 11:30 p.m. Intermittent, full closures of I-294, each lasting up to 15 minutes, will begin after midnight. All lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. each following morning.

Once bridge beam removal is complete over northbound I-294, lane closures will be scheduled for bridge beam placement over southbound I-294. Overnight closures will begin at 8 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 10 p.m. and a third lane closure at 11:30 p.m. Intermittent, full closures of I-294, each lasting up to 15 minutes, will begin after midnight. All lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 6 a.m. each following morning.

The temporary bypass bridge was built as part of the project to ensure uninterrupted rail traffic during construction. On average, approximately 104 Metra and Amtrak trains cross this bridge daily, as well as 52 daily freight trains.

Following bridge beam removal, ongoing nightly lane closures will be scheduled as needed through spring to remove the bypass bridge's abutments and piers and add protective elements to complete the BNSF Railway Bridge Project this year.

The BNSF Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad for BNSF and Metra traffic over I-294 between Hinsdale and Western Springs, has been rebuilt to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. The new BNSF Railway Bridge is a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that now accommodates four tracks. The new fourth track on the bridge will be used for maintenance purposes by BNSF.

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The \$96 million BNSF Railway Bridge Project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with local municipalities, park districts, as well as police and fire departments.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction information about the BNSF Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

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.

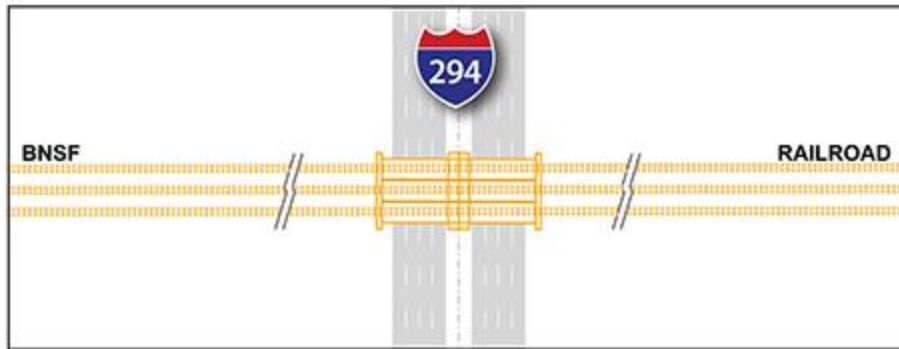
About Move Illinois

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 10 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).

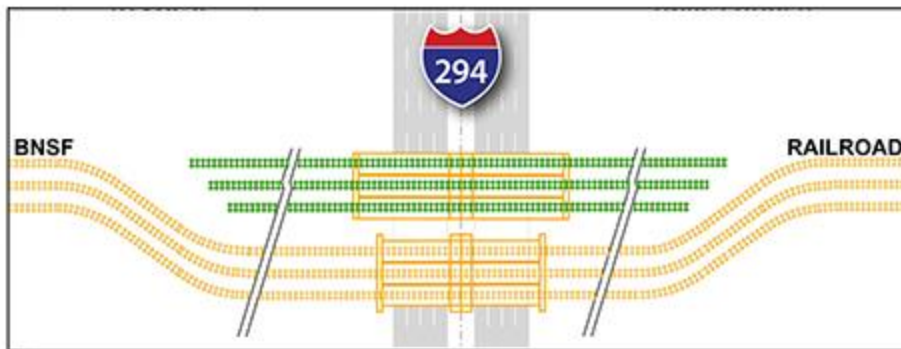
About the Illinois Tollway

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.

EXISTING



CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETE



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