



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2022

LANE CLOSURE SCHEDULED ALONG SOUTHBOUND MILE LONG BRIDGE ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Extended lane reduction needed to pour concrete bridge deck for ongoing construction

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – An extended lane closure on the southbound Mile Long Bridge on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is scheduled to begin later this week as part of the Illinois Tollway's ongoing work to construct a new southbound bridge structure.

The temporary lane closure is necessary to provide a safe work zone and accommodate traffic. Three lanes will remain open to traffic; however, delays are expected.

Beginning at 9 p.m. on Friday, June 10, and continuing through Tuesday, June 14, the right lane on southbound I-294 is scheduled to be closed to traffic between LaGrange Road and 75th Street. However, if needed, the closure may be extended through Thursday, June 16.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers. Up-to-date closure information will be posted on the Tollway website in the [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

The lane closure will create a larger work zone for contractors pouring concrete to construct the southbound bridge deck on the Mile Long Bridge as part of the rebuilding and widening of I-294.

Construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project and the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

As part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway Project, the Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the Mile Long Bridge that carries up to 150,000 vehicles daily over two major railroads, the Des Plaines River, the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal and the Illinois & Michigan Canal and local roads, and over several major distribution centers. The original bridge structures were built in 1958.

The \$500 million Mile Long Bridge Project includes building two, new side-by-side 4,800-foot-long bridge structures designed to last 100 years and increasing capacity to five lanes in each direction. Construction of the new northbound structure was completed in 2020 and construction of the new southbound structure began in 2020. The entire Mile Long Bridge Project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Both of the new bridges feature 27 spans supported by 26 piers, compared to the previous structures with 53 piers, reducing the impact on waterways, roadway and rail operations below. In addition, the bridges' inside shoulders in both directions will be built to serve as Flex Lanes for transit, for emergency vehicles and as an alternate lane when warranted.

The Illinois Tollway is coordinating work on the Mile Long Bridge Project with the Village of Hodgkins, Village of Countryside, Village of Willow Springs, Village of Justice, Cook County, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army

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Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Coast Guard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), IDNR Office of Water Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, as well as numerous businesses located near the Mile Long Bridge.

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.



PHASE 1:
Build new northbound bridge

PHASE 2:
Remove old northbound bridge
and build new southbound bridge

PHASE 3:
Remove old southbound bridge



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