



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2022

WORK BEGINS ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) MAINLINE BETWEEN I-55 AND CERMAK ROAD

Winter construction to continue as weather permits

DOWNERS GROVE, IL– The Illinois Tollway is beginning mainline work in the central section of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project with winter construction between I-55 and Cermak Road to prepare for roadway reconstruction and widening to begin in the spring.

Four lanes of traffic will remain open in each direction with a work zone in the center median area until spring 2023. During the winter, construction will include work to remove the median and construct temporary pavement, as well as roadway lighting and signage work as weather allows.

Work will be scheduled during overnight and during off-peak daytime hours to minimize the impact on drivers. Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

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

Mainline construction between St. Charles Road and I-55 is currently scheduled for 2023 through 2026. The Tollway will rebuild the roadway with widening up to six lanes in both directions in some areas, deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as deliver reconstructed shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Oak Brook, Proviso Township, Village of Hinsdale, Village of Western Springs, Village of Indian Head Park, Village of Burr Ridge as well as local fire and police departments.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. 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 the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

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.

-more-

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 152,000 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 planning for emerging projects, including 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.

###