



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2023

**OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)
FOR BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION WORK AT 88TH/CORK AVENUE**
Full closures needed to safely accommodate bridge beam placement

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this week on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at 88th/Cork Avenue to accommodate bridge beam placement for construction of a new interchange.

Lane closures in both directions are necessary to safely accommodate the placement of bridge beams on 88th/Cork Avenue over I-294. Bridge beam placement will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on local road traffic.

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

On Wednesday, March 1, lane closures in both directions will begin at 7 p.m., with two lanes in each direction on I-294 closing at 8 p.m. and northbound traffic reduced to a single lane by 11 p.m. and southbound by midnight. In addition, full roadway closures, each lasting 15 minutes, in both directions are scheduled to begin at midnight and end by 5 a.m. on Thursday, March 2. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 6 a.m. If closures cannot be completed during this time, a backup closure will be scheduled overnight Thursday, March 2.

On 88th/Cork Avenue, beginning at 11 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, a single lane will be closed with flaggers present to allow traffic to pass over the bridge.

The \$39 million 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project on I-294, includes construction of new ramps connecting 88th/Cork Avenue to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) along with other local roadway improvements to both accommodate for the larger Central Tri-State construction project as well as to improve local traffic circulation and provide congestion relief. The interchange project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024.

As part of the project, the Tollway will construct a new ramp connecting northbound I-294 to 88th/Cork Avenue and a new ramp connecting 88th/Cork Avenue to southbound I-294. In addition, the Tollway will widen the 88th/Cork Avenue Bridge over I-294 to provide a southbound left turn lane, as well as additional pedestrian and bicycle access, noisewalls and drainage and lighting improvements.

The new interchange is designed to be compatible with a new ramp connecting southbound Archer Avenue to northbound I-294, which is being constructed by the Illinois Tollway as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

Construction on this project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Village of Justice, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, as well as local fire and police departments.

Information about the 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project including maps and construction updates is available on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

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. On 88th/Cork Avenue, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect.

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 11 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.