



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 25, 2023**

## **OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO PREPARE FOR TRAFFIC SHIFTS ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**

*New traffic pattern on I-294 between Cermak Toll Plaza and Plainfield Road will accommodate ongoing construction in 2023*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Overnight lanes closures will be scheduled over the next two weeks on the Central Tri-State (I-294) Tollway between Plainfield Road and Cermak Road to shift traffic into a work zone configuration for the 2023 construction season as the Illinois Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway Project continues.

Construction and electronic message signs will be in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures and traffic shift. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Beginning overnight Thursday, April 27 and continuing through the week of May 1, multiple nights of overnight closures will be scheduled between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. in both directions on I-294 for placement of barrier wall and pavement markings. At times, traffic will be reduced to a single lane while work is underway to prepare for the traffic shift.

When complete, traffic will be shifted into a new configuration to provide for a construction work zone on the right side of northbound I-294 between Plainfield Road and Cermak Road.

Northbound I-294 traffic will be shifted to the left with two lanes of traffic traveling on the southbound side of the Tollway in counterflow configuration. In addition, all southbound I-294 traffic between Plainfield Road and Cermak Road will be shifted to the right.

During construction, four lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions on I-294 between Plainfield Road and Cermak Road. Traffic will remain in this configuration through fall.

In 2023, work includes construction of the northbound mainline pavement, shoulder work, reconstruction of the I-294 bridge over Salt Creek, noisewall construction and storm sewer and utility work.

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

As part of the Illinois Tollway's \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, work in the central section of the Central Tri-State is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026 and includes reconstruction and widening of I-294 between St. Charles Road and I-55 along with improvements to medians and bridges, as well as reconstructing the inside shoulders to include Flex Lanes.

Information including maps and construction updates is available on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) in the Projects section.

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### **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. On I-294, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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 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.

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