

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 11, 2023

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN BEGINS NEXT WEEK AT OGDEN AVENUE INTERCHANGE ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

New signalized interchange will direct Ogden Avenue traffic to a shared ramp to access northbound I-294

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to activate a new traffic signal next week on Ogden Avenue to create one signalized access ramp for traffic traveling from both eastbound and westbound Ogden Avenue to the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) as part of the Ogden Avenue Interchange Project.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changing traffic patterns. Up-to-date information will be posted on the Tollway website and in the <u>Daily Construction Alert</u>. All work is weather dependent.

On Wednesday, May 17, the new traffic signal will be turned on and traffic on eastbound Ogden Avenue traveling to the northbound I-294 will be directed to a new left-turn lane. The ramp that previously provided access to northbound I-294 will be closed and removed.

Work in the area will continue into 2025 as part of the rebuilding and widening of I-294.

The Illinois Tollway is investing \$8.9 million to reconfigure the Ogden Avenue Interchange to improve mobility and traffic flow for local drivers and Tollway customers. Currently up to 40,000 vehicles use the interchange daily with up to 33,600 vehicles traveling on Ogden Avenue in the area.

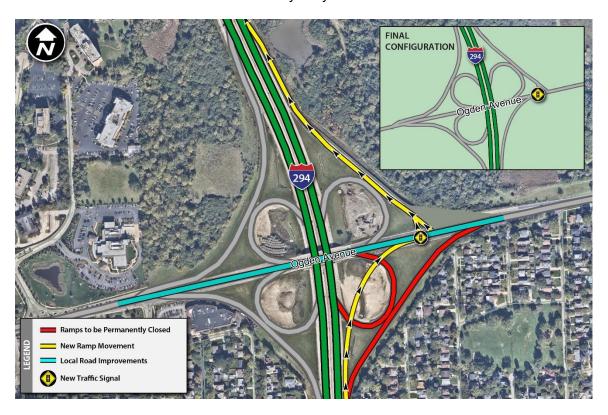
To accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway, the Ogden Avenue Interchange has been reconfigured from a cloverleaf design to a partial cloverleaf design. The Illinois Tollway has combined ramps on the east side of I-294 to create one signalized access ramp from Ogden Avenue to northbound I-294 and the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to eastbound Ogden Avenue has been relocated with access control at the new traffic signal.

In addition, completed improvements on Ogden Avenue include repairs and median reconstruction on the existing bridge over I-294. In addition, on eastbound Ogden Avenue a new left turn lane was constructed, and the merge lane has been extended to provide vehicles exiting the Tollway with additional distance to merge. The project also includes noisewall construction, drainage and lighting improvements and landscaping.

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

Information about the Ogden 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 Ogden 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* is 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 completing 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 new I-490 Tollway 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.