



88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The long-envisioned 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Justice will unlock new access and relieve congestion in the area.

The \$39 million project is a collaboration between the Tollway, Cook County, the Village of Justice and IDOT and includes construction of new ramps connecting 88th/Cork Avenue to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) along with local roadway improvements.

In 2024, the Tollway will complete the 88th/Cork Avenue Bridge over I-294, as well as the new northbound exit ramp from I-294 to 88th/Cork Avenue. Work in 2024 includes: constructing a retaining wall at the northwest corner of the bridge and construction approach slabs on the north end and on the southbound side of the bridge, as well as landscaping.

Work began in 2022 and be complete by the end of 2026.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project includes construction of a new interchange and local road improvements to provide new access and improve mobility for the Village of Justice and surrounding communities.

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 and replace the bridge deck. The new bridge will be built to provide a southbound left-turn lane, as well as additional pedestrian and bicycle access.

The project includes local intersection improvements that will be built by Cook County along 88th/Cork Avenue at 79th Street and Archer Avenue.

Additional work on this project includes noisewall and retaining wall construction, utility work, 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. The new ramps, which will open simultaneously, will also allow for consolidation of local southbound entrance ramps from Archer Avenue.

Local Road Improvements

Local road improvements built by Cook County will include reconstruction and widening of 88th/Cork Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue from south of 81st Street to north of Archer Avenue.

New frontage roads will be built alongside 88th Avenue and 81st Street and intersection improvements will also be needed at 88th Avenue and 81st Street and at the southbound I-294 entrance ramp.

Intersection improvements are also scheduled at Archer Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue and 79th Street. The intersection improvements are needed to accommodate the additional traffic from the new ramps.

Customer Impacts

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to scheduled bridge closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.

Shoulder closures and traffic shifts will be used to provide room for a work zone and safely accommodate traffic. Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

PURPOSE

The 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project is compatible with Cook County's long-range Invest in Cook Initiative to encourage business development and growth by improving freight and traffic connections across the county. The new interchange will be part of an enterprise zone created by the Village of Justice and will encourage new construction and support job creation in the village, as well as opening up an entryway to Justice and other surrounding communities to relieve traffic congestion and provide easier access to destinations including SeatGeek Stadium.

In partnership with the Illinois Tollway and Illinois Department of Transportation, the Village of Justice lead the

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project's design and the Illinois Tollway and Cook County will be constructing the project improvements.

Consistent with the Tollway's Interchange and Roadway Cost-Sharing Policy requiring local communities to cover no less than half the cost of interchange improvements, the local share of the \$39 million project will be funded by Cook County and the Village of Justice. As part of the local funding component, the Village of Justice and Cook County partnered together and collaborated with the Illinois Tollway to receive a grant from the Illinois Competitive Freight Program for \$13.44 million to be used for right-of-way acquisition for the new interchange.

This work is part of the Tollway's 16-year, \$15 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

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Work 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 and 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.

Visit the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at illinoistollway.com.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In addition to reducing the cost of this work, reuse of these materials reduces the need for virgin asphalt materials and reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and the volume of material that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

GETTING TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- illinoistollway.com – Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.