



NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND WAZE JOIN FORCES TO PROVIDE GREATER TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY DATA TO DRIVERS

Waze Connected Citizen Program helps Tollway customers and Waze users make better-informed travel decisions

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is now providing drivers real-time traffic and roadway information to Waze, the everyday driving platform bringing together drivers to outsmart traffic. By joining the Waze Connected Citizens Program, the Illinois Tollway will also have access to publicly available traffic information to make travel safer and more reliable on the 294-mile Tollway system throughout Northern Illinois.

The new data-sharing partnership allows Illinois Tollway customers to get advance warnings on crashes, stopped vehicles, potholes and roadway debris on the five roadways that make up the Tollway system. Specifically, the Tollway is providing Waze with information on lane blockages, roadway incidents, and the location of Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks for Waze users. This information will be available on the Waze app to keep drivers better informed on their routes and provide a more thorough overview of current traffic and roadway conditions.

“Drivers increasingly rely on technology to inform their commutes, and our ability to now leverage data from Waze users to respond to incidents and push accurate traffic incident information directly to them is a huge value-add to Tollway customers,” said Kevin Artl, Illinois Tollway Acting Executive Director. “We fully expect this partnership with Waze to improve the safety of our roads for both commuters and roadway workers.”

In addition, because Waze provides real-time, location-based information, Tollway traffic operations staff will have more data to identify and respond to incidents. The ability of Tollway Roadway Maintenance and emergency responders to clear incidents faster helps reduce backups and the potential for secondary crashes, which are often more severe than the initial incident.

“Our partnership with the Illinois Tollway demonstrates how drivers can more effectively leverage technology and data to improve mobility and make travel safer and more convenient,” said Thais Blumenthal de Moraes, Global Business Development Lead, Connected Citizens Program at Waze. “We’re excited to welcome the Illinois Tollway as a Connected Citizens Program partner and help the organization better serve drivers throughout Northern Illinois and make more informed planning decisions.”

The Tollway continues to use technology to deliver improvements and enhance safety for its 1.6 million daily drivers. The agency recently began using Twitter to provide customers with real-time updates describing pavement conditions during severe winter weather. The Tollway previously offered real-time roadway incident information on Twitter, including the type of incident, location and impact on traffic. The Tollway also has introduced SmartRoad on a section of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), incorporating active traffic management and integrating a dedicated Flex Lane for Pace buses to use whenever traffic conditions warrant.

The Tollway is one of 900 city, state and country government agencies, nonprofits and first responders worldwide to join the Waze Connected Citizens Program. One of the main benefits of the partnership is that the Waze map evolves with every driver and data point it receives, prompting safer roads and providing more knowledge to drivers about potential delays to their commutes. The Connected Citizens Program yields even more data, giving drivers a greater ability to circumvent road closures and traffic congestion. To learn more about the Waze Connected Citizens Program, visit waze.com/ccp.

About Waze

Waze is where people and technology meet to solve transportation challenges. It's a platform that empowers communities to contribute road data, edit Waze maps, and carpool to improve the way we move about the world. Thanks to Wazers everywhere, Waze is able to partner with municipalities and transit authorities to reduce traffic and congestion—leveraging current infrastructure while impacting city planning.

A world with better transportation doesn't have to be in the distant future. By harnessing the power of community to reverse negative trends in transportation, Waze can create a world where traffic is history.

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 interstate tollways 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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