



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2016

TEMPORARY, OVERNIGHT LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK ON I-290 FOR ELGIN O'HARE WESTERN ACCESS PROJECT

Lane closures and ramp detours needed for bridge beam work on the I-290 Interchange Project

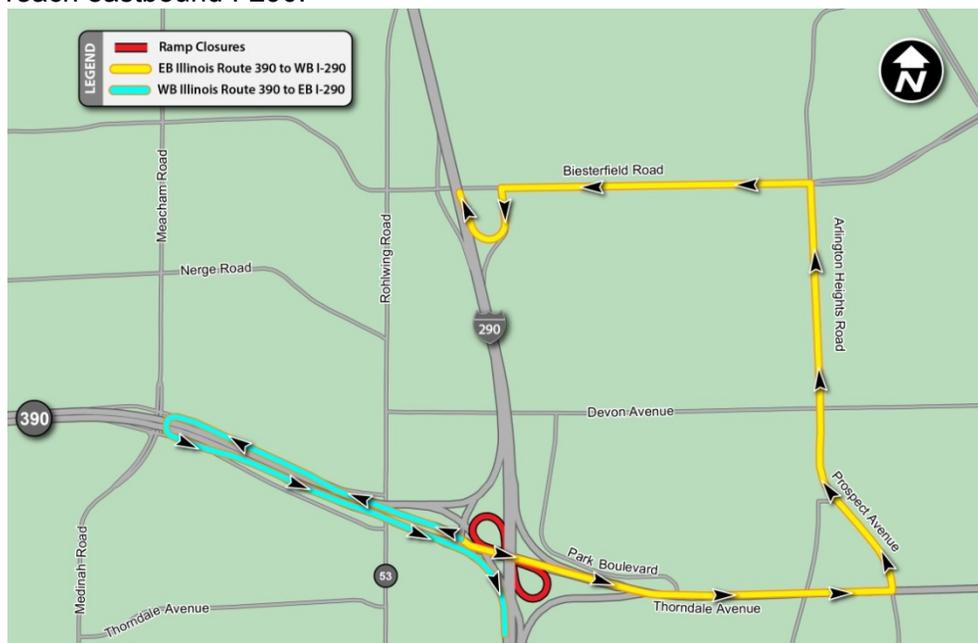
DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures on I-290 are scheduled to begin next week to remove bridge beams for the I-290 Interchange Project. In addition, the ramps carrying traffic from westbound Illinois Route 390 to eastbound I-290 and from eastbound Illinois Route 390 to westbound I-290 are scheduled to close and a detour will be posted. Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight closures.

Weather permitting, four nights of overnight work are scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 23, including intermittent, full closures of I-290 lasting no longer than 15 minutes, for bridge beam removal.

On Wednesday, March 23, three eastbound lanes on I-290 between Biesterfield Road and Illinois Route 390 are scheduled to close at 11 p.m. with intermittent, full closures scheduled between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Thursday, March 24. All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m.

On Thursday, March 24, eastbound lane closures on I-290 are scheduled to resume at 11 p.m. with intermittent, full closures scheduled between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Friday, March 25.

In addition, on Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25, westbound Illinois Route 390 to eastbound I-290 is scheduled to close with a posted detour from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. To travel east on I-290, westbound Illinois Route 390 traffic will be detoured to the Meacham Road exit and back onto eastbound Illinois Route 390 to reach eastbound I-290.



On Monday, March 28, three westbound lanes on I-290 between Irving Park Road and Illinois Route 390 are scheduled to close at midnight with intermittent, full closures scheduled between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29. All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m.

On Tuesday, March 29, westbound lane closures on I-290 are scheduled to resume at 11 p.m., with intermittent, full closures from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30. All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m.

In addition, on Tuesday, March 29 and Wednesday, March 30, the ramp carrying traffic from eastbound Illinois Route 390 to westbound I-290 is scheduled to close with a posted detour from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. To travel west on I-290, eastbound Illinois Route 390 traffic will be detoured to Prospect Avenue, north to Arlington Heights Road, then west along Biesterfield Road and reach westbound I-290.

Full closures on I-290 are being scheduled overnight to minimize the impact to daily commuters. Up to 240,000 vehicles a day travel through the Illinois Route 390/I-290 area. Work on the new I-290 Interchange and detours are being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and the village of Itasca, along with local police and fire departments.

I-290 Interchange Project

As part of the EOWA Project, the Illinois Tollway is completely rebuilding the I-290 Interchange at Illinois Route 390, formerly known as the Elgin O'Hare Expressway. Currently, about 83,000 vehicles per day use ramps at the Illinois Route 390/I-290 Interchange; 127,000 vehicles per day are expected to use the new interchange ramps when it opens in 2017 – an increase of more than 53 percent. Today, about 240,000 vehicles a day travel through the Illinois Route 390/I-290 area. By 2030, that number is expected to increase to 340,000.

The I-290 Interchange Project is estimated at approximately \$440 million and will include 17 ramps and 15 new bridges in the interchange area between Meacham/Medinah Road and Prospect Avenue and will create direct access with a new fly-over ramp and free-flow traffic movements to and from Illinois Route 390 in all directions. The I-290 Interchange Project also includes construction of a new Rohlwing Road Bridge and access improvements along Illinois Route 390 between Meacham Road/Medinah Road and Prospect Avenue. The new I-290 Interchange Project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.

Maps and construction project information about the EOWA Project are available in the “Projects by Roadway” section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway’s website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The \$3.4 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project is included in the Tollway’s 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Moving the Future*.

Work Zone Safety

A 55 mph speed limit is in effect 24/7 on I-290. Construction zone speed limits are in effect in all construction zones 24/7 and drivers should slow down in construction zones, whether or not workers are present, watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution at all times.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

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

- www.illinoistollway.com – Construction/Planning section, Tollway Trip Calculator, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information
- 1-800-TOLL-FYI – Daily lane closure information
- www.travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- www.twitter.com – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 94/294

About Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project

Considered a Project of National and Regional Significance by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the \$3.4 billion Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project represents a fiscally responsible approach to address the area’s diverse travel needs – improving travel efficiency, providing western access to O’Hare International Airport, creating opportunities for jobs and economic development, enhancing multi-modal connections and reducing congestion. The project includes 17 miles of new roads with 15 new or improved interchanges as part of a new, all-electronic toll road that includes rehabilitating and widening Illinois Route 390, formerly known as the Elgin O’Hare Expressway, and extending it east along Thorndale Avenue to O’Hare and building a new roadway around the western border of O’Hare linking the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294). Broadly supported by local governments, the project is the result of bipartisan consensus reached by the Elgin O’Hare Advisory Council in 2011, which brought together local communities, business, labor, public finance and regional planning and transportation experts.

About Move Illinois

The Illinois Tollway’s 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, will improve mobility, relieve congestion, reduce pollution, create as many as 120,000 jobs and link economies across the Midwest region. *Move Illinois* will address the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system; rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art, 21st century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; build a new, all-electronic Elgin O’Hare Western Access and fund planning studies for emerging projects.

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 286 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) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

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