



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2016

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY EXPECTS MORE THAN 6 MILLION VEHICLES
ON ITS SYSTEM THIS EASTER HOLIDAY**

Tollway customers urged to update their I-PASS account information before hitting the road

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway expects more than 6 million vehicles to travel the Tollway system this Easter holiday weekend from Friday, March 25, to Monday, March 28 – a 3.1 percent increase from 5.8 million vehicles on the road last year. The heaviest travel is anticipated on Monday, March 28, when nearly 1.7 million vehicles are expected on the road. On an average day, about 1.5 million vehicles use the Tollway.

With more Tollway customers hitting the road for Easter family festivities or spring break getaways, the Tollway is encouraging customers to make sure their I-PASS accounts are up to date. Customers who automatically replenish funds in their I-PASS accounts need to update new credit card information regularly to ensure they maintain sufficient funds in their accounts. Tollway customers should also update their I-PASS accounts if they buy a new car, register a new license plate or change their address.

“Many Tollway customers are receiving new credit or debit cards with more secure chip technology and these new cards may have different account numbers or expiration dates,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “I-PASS customers should make sure their accounts are in good standing before they head out to Easter services or travel for spring break.”

The Illinois Tollway’s tolling system provides the highest percentage of electronic toll collection in the nation among tolling systems that collect both cash and electronic tolls. More than 87 percent of the 2.3 million daily toll transactions on the Illinois Tollway system are paid electronically through I-PASS or E-ZPass from more than 5.5 million active transponders and more than 3.9 million active I-PASS accounts.

To accommodate increased Easter holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, most construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Friday, March 25, through 9 a.m. on Monday, March 28. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule, but this work will not impact traffic. All work is weather dependent.

Areas where work zones will continue during the holiday include:

Jane Adams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

Between the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and Illinois Route 25, traffic shifts are in place throughout the roadway the Tollway works to complete the eastern segment of the \$2.5 billion I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project by the end of the year.

- Between Roselle Road and Illinois Route 53, the right eastbound lane is closed. Traffic entering from Roselle Road should be prepared to yield on the ramp and merge with I-90 traffic.

- On eastbound I-90 between the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and the River Road Toll Plaza, traffic is shifted to the right with a work zone on the left. The far right lane is a dedicated exit lane to the ramp carrying I-90 traffic to northbound I-294 with two eastbound lanes of traffic continuing through to the River Road Toll Plaza.
- At the River Road Toll Plaza, one open road tolling lane and one I-PASS or Pay Online lane on the cash side of the plaza are closed.

Illinois Route 390 Project

Work continues on the Illinois Route 390 Project, with construction continuing on the eastern portion from I-290 to Illinois Route 83 and on the new I-290 Interchange.

- On Illinois Route 390, eastbound traffic between Meacham/Medinah Road and Rohlwing Road is shifted to the right. Additionally, traffic in both directions is shifted between Illinois Route 53 and I-290.
- On I-290 at Illinois Route 390, traffic in both directions is shifted to the outside with shoulder closures.
- Traffic is shifted on Wood Dale Road at the Thorndale Avenue intersection with one lane closed in each direction.

Tollway customers are encouraged to slow down and pay attention in work zones. The speed limit in work zones is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even when workers are not present.

Work zone speed limits are in place to protect workers and drivers alike. Drivers should be prepared for sudden stops, changing traffic patterns, rough surfaces, uneven pavement and slower speeds when entering a work zone. Drivers also may encounter workers near the roadway and large construction equipment entering or leaving traffic lanes.

Tollway Travel Tips

The Tollway offers the following ways for drivers to get the latest travel information before they get on the road:

- 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 and travel 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

Need Help? Dial *999 – If your vehicle becomes disabled, park safely on the shoulder, raise your hood and remain in your vehicle. Dial *999 and assistance will be dispatched to your location.

Illinois State Police District 15 Out in Force

The Illinois State Police District 15 will be out in full force throughout the Illinois Tollway system during the holiday weekend. The goals of District 15 are to decrease traffic fatalities and serious personal injury accidents through high visibility and the enforcement of all traffic laws.

District 15 will be conducting special traffic details that focus on the fatal four offenses that include speeding, driving under the influence, seatbelts and distracted driving. These details will include seatbelt enforcement by officers on foot at toll plazas and the use of special enforcement vehicles such as fully marked colored squad cars and unmarked squad cars.

“District 15 will have additional officers on patrol and conducting special enforcement details focusing on speed, distracted driving and alcohol-related offenses in an effort to reduce traffic accidents and prevent fatalities,” said District 15 Acting Commander Robert Meeder. “We are asking drivers to help keep the Illinois Tollway safe by slowing down, putting away their cellphones and buckling up all occupants to ensure safe travel.”

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).

###