



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 22 2016**

## **ROADWAY RESURFACING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MARCH ON THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88)**

*Single lane closures required for the duration of the project*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work to prepare for the start of this year’s roadway resurfacing on the far western segment of the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Whiteside, Lee and Ogle counties is scheduled to begin the week of March 28, with lane reductions and traffic shifts in construction work zones.

In 2016, the Illinois Tollway is scheduled to resurface 11 miles between U.S. Route 52 and U.S. Route 30 in Rock Falls and complete resurfacing work begun in 2015 on 21 miles of I-88 between Illinois Route 251 near Rochelle and U.S. Route 52 near Dixon to provide a smoother riding surface for the traveling public. Work is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

Traffic on I-88 will be reduced from two lanes to one lane in each direction in work zones during construction throughout the majority of the resurfacing project. The partial shoulders on this segment of I-88 are too narrow to safely accommodate a traffic shift and provide for a work zone.

Weather permitting, on Monday, March 28, work is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. with single lane closures in the both directions in the 11-mile segment between U.S. Route 30 and U.S. Route 52 to remove rumble strips and prepare to shift traffic to provide a work zone for inside shoulder reconstruction and left lane resurfacing.

This advance work is expected to last for four weeks, after which all traffic between U.S. Route 30 and U.S. Route 52 will be reduced to one lane in each direction and roadway resurfacing and shoulder reconstruction will begin. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer, at which time traffic will be shifted to the left to provide a work zone on the right.

Work is also scheduled to begin in March to reconstruct the ramps at the Illinois Route 26 Interchange and the U.S. Route 30 Interchange. This work included pavement removal and resurfacing. Traffic shifts and ramp closures will be necessary to complete the work.

Weather permitting, on Friday, April 1, work is also scheduled to resume on I-88 in the eastbound lanes between Robbins Road and Midway Road to complete roadway resurfacing. In addition, resurfacing work is scheduled to resume in April in both directions between Thorpe Road and Steward Road. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane for resurfacing work in these segments, with work expected to be complete this summer.

### **Work Zone Safety**

A 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect on I-88 throughout the resurfacing project. 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.

### **I-88 Roadway Resurfacing Project**

The I-88 Roadway Resurfacing Project will provide customers a smoother surface, improving the overall driving experience, and extend the life of the roadway.

Roadway resurfacing work on I-88 includes milling off two inches of asphalt pavement and replacing it with a new six-inch asphalt overlay. Shoulder reconstruction includes removal of the existing pavement and construction of a new six-inch asphalt shoulder. Once the overlay is completed, the roadway will be restriped with new markings.

This year's resurfacing work will place the remaining layers of asphalt to complete the conversion of the western segment of I-88 to "perpetual pavement." The first stage of this work was completed in 2006.

Perpetual pavement is thick enough that only two inches needs to be removed and replaced at a time to keep the surface fresh. Future maintenance will require removal and replacement of the top layer of asphalt only in lieu of full reconstruction of the entire pavement structure.

In 2015, the Tollway completed resurfacing of about 17 miles of westbound and 10 miles of eastbound I-88. In addition, two ramps to and from the west at Illinois Route 251 were reconstructed and the two ramps to and from the east were resurfaced.

All work is being coordinated with Whiteside, Lee and Ogle Counties and the Illinois Department of Transportation, along with local municipalities, townships, school districts and police and fire departments.

Maps and construction project information about the I-88 Roadway Resurfacing Project is available in the "Projects by Roadway" section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Getting Tollway Construction Information**

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

- [www.illinoistollway.com](http://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](http://www.travelmidwest.com) – Real-time travel times
- [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 94/294

### **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 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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