



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2016

**LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN WORK ON THE FARNSWORTH INTERCHANGE
ON THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA**

*Daily, off-peak lane closures scheduled on Farnsworth Avenue
through mid-May to prepare for ramp and bridge reconstruction*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Work to prepare for the start of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora is scheduled to begin the week of May 9 with daily, off-peak lane closures on Farnsworth Avenue.

Beginning the week of May 9, daily lane closures will be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Farnsworth Avenue between Bilter Road and Molitor Road for temporary pavement work to prepare for traffic shifts for bridge reconstruction. Once that work is complete in mid-May, traffic will be reduced to one southbound through lane with an auxiliary lane to accommodate entering and exiting ramp traffic.

The two-year project will include reconstruction of the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge and reconfiguring ramps to improve traffic flow at the interchange. Construction in 2016 will include removal and reconstruction of the northbound side of the bridge and removal of two ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and from northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88. Work on the project is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

The Farnsworth Avenue Bridge will remain open to traffic during construction with traffic shifts and lane reductions.

Closures and detours will be put in place beginning in summer of 2016 for removal of the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88. In addition, a month-long closure and detour will also be put in place during summer 2016 for realignment of the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to southbound Farnsworth Avenue and southbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88.

On I-88, shoulder closures, as well as off-peak lane closures and intermittent full closures will be needed to accommodate bridge and ramp construction.

The Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project will extend the life of the interchange, increase traffic capacity and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. More than 30,000 vehicles use this interchange daily.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Aurora, Aurora Township, DuPage and Kane Counties, local fire and police departments.

Construction information about the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is available in the “Projects by Roadway” section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The Farnsworth Interchange Project

The \$19 million Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is reconstructing the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora and improving traffic flow at the interchange.

The project includes the construction of a new bridge, ramp reconfiguration, installation of energy-efficient LED lighting and the addition of a bicycle and pedestrian path across the bridge. Work on the project is scheduled to begin this spring and to be complete in 2017.

The project includes the removal of the existing four-span bridge and construction of a new, two-span bridge that will provide two lanes of traffic with full shoulders in both directions. In addition, the bridge, which will be raised to meet Tollway standards, will also be lengthened to accommodate future improvements as needed on I-88.

Reconstruction of the bridge will also provide the opportunity to include new aesthetic enhancements on the bridge walls, as well as black powder-coat fencing and traffic signals.

The project will also include local roadway improvements, including the addition of a barrier-separated bicycle and pedestrian path on the east side of the bridge. The addition of the path and the new interchange ramp configuration will provide public access to cross I-88 along Farnsworth Avenue.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and other area roadways remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Construction 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.

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 a 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 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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