



Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY EXPECTS NEARLY 7.6 MILLION VEHICLES
ON ITS SYSTEM THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Motorists invited to play Tollway BINGO to make road trips more fun

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Expecting the busiest Memorial Day weekend on its system, the Illinois Tollway reminds drivers to stay focused on the road and slow down in construction work zones. The Tollway encourages drivers to do their part to make travel safe, including allowing extra time for their trips and taking extra precautions while driving this holiday weekend.

“With travel on our system reaching record highs this Memorial Day weekend, the Illinois Tollway reminds drivers to stay alert, slow down in work zones and stay off hand-held cellphones while driving,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “We want everyone to have fun on their summer road trips, but we also need drivers to make safety the highest priority while heading to their holiday destinations.”

The Illinois Tollway anticipates nearly 7.6 million vehicles will travel the Tollway system this Memorial Day weekend from Friday, May 27, to Tuesday, May 31 – a nearly 2 percent increase from 7.4 million vehicles on the road last year. The heaviest travel is anticipated on Friday, May 27, when nearly 1.9 million vehicles are expected on the road. On an average day, about 1.5 million vehicles use the Tollway.

To help kick off the summer road trip season, the Illinois Tollway is offering free Tollway BINGO cards. Traditional road trip games like BINGO can help keep passengers entertained for hours, allowing drivers to pay attention to their surroundings and keep everyone safe.

Passengers on Memorial Day weekend road trips can enjoy playing Tollway BINGO, an interactive game that invites players to spot items represented on their unique cards. The set of four Tollway BINGO cards – printable off the Tollway’s website – feature a variety of sights seen on and along the 286-mile Tollway system, including road signs, various structures and vehicles such as a Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) truck and Illinois State Police patrol car. First player to get five squares in a row wins!

To accommodate increased Memorial Day weekend 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, May 27, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 31. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule.

Electronic message signs and construction signage are in place to alert drivers in advance to construction and lane closures. Traffic shifts and lane closures are necessary to provide a work zone to safely accommodate construction and maintain access for drivers. Drivers are reminded to slow down and follow posted speed limits in construction work zones, which are in effect 24/7 even if no workers are present.

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 for the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project.

- 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 Higgins Road (Illinois Route 72) in Rosemont and the River Road Toll Plaza, traffic is split with a work zone in the middle. Traffic on the right has access to southbound I-294 and O'Hare International Airport and traffic on the left has access to northbound I-294 and the Kennedy Expressway.
- 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 from I-290 to Illinois Route 83 and on the new I-290 Interchange.

- On Illinois Route 390, traffic in both directions is shifted between Rohlwing Road and I-290 and work is underway along Thorndale Avenue.
- On I-290 between Devon Avenue and Irving Park Road, traffic is shifted in both directions.

Reagan Memorial Tollway

- Between U.S. Route 30 in Rock Falls and Chicago Avenue (U.S. Route 52) near Dixon, traffic is reduced to one lane in both directions.
- The ramp carrying eastbound I-88 traffic to Illinois Route 26 in Dixon is closed. A detour is posted directing drivers to exit at U.S. Route 30 10 miles in advance of Illinois Route 26.
- At the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange, traffic on southbound Farnsworth Avenue is reduced to one lane.

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 not only to assist traveling motorists but also to decrease traffic fatalities and serious personal injury through high visibility and strict 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, seat belts and distracted driving. These details will include seat belt enforcement by officers on foot at toll plazas, air speed details throughout construction work zones on the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project and the use of special enforcement vehicles such as motorcycles, unmarked squad cars and fully marked colored squads throughout the Tollway system.

“District 15 will have additional officers on patrol and will be conducting special enforcement details focusing on speed, distracted driving, truck lane restrictions and alcohol-related offenses in an effort to reduce crashes and prevent fatalities,” said District 15 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.”

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.

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

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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