



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2016

VETERANS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-355) ROADWAY WIDENING PROJECT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN WITH TRAFFIC SHIFTS AND LANE CLOSURES THIS WEEK

Temporary, overnight lane closures scheduled on southbound I-355; traffic shifts set for June

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Work to prepare for the start of the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) Roadway Widening Project in Woodridge is scheduled to begin this week, with overnight lane closures in the southbound lanes between 63rd Street and 83rd Street.

In 2016, the Illinois Tollway is widening a one-mile section of southbound I-355 between 71st Street and 75th Street to help provide congestion relief. Ramps to and from the south are being realigned to match the new mainline configuration.

Beginning Thursday June 2, on southbound I-355 one left lane is scheduled to close at 9 p.m. for shoulder work to prepare for a traffic shift. The lane will reopen each morning by 5 a.m. in advance of the morning rush hour. This work is expected to last until mid-June.

Once the preparation work is complete, three lanes of traffic are scheduled to be shifted to the left with a work zone on the right to begin roadway widening work. Ramps at 71st Street and 75th Street will remain open at all times.

The I-355 roadway widening project will add a new lane on southbound I-355 from 71st Street to just beyond 75th Street to provide four lanes in each direction. Currently, the fourth southbound lane becomes an exit lane for 75th Street and does not resume until after the entrance ramp from 75th Street. In addition, the 75th Street ramps to and from southbound I-355 will be reconstructed to better align with the new four-lane roadway.

Up to 62,600 vehicles per day use this stretch of road. The project is being coordinated with DuPage County, along with local municipalities and police and fire departments.

Construction information about the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) Roadway Widening Project is available in the “Projects by Roadway” section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway’s website at www.illinoistollway.com.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) 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. On I-355, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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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](https://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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