



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2016

**INSTALLATION OF GANTRIES FOR NEW SMARTROAD SCHEDULED TO BEGIN
NEXT WEEK ON JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90)**

Temporary, overnight lane closures scheduled for gantry installation

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin the week of June 20 for installation of the first over-the-road gantries installed as part of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project. The new SmartRoad high-tech gantries will be using the latest technologies to make the roadway safer and more efficient for Tollway customers, incorporating active traffic management, integrating transit and delivering a 21st century corridor.

Installation of the new gantries will be scheduled during overnight hours beginning the week of June 20, and continuing through the fall. Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures as gantry installation continues. Temporary roadway closures are necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates the work and traffic.

Each installation will require overnight lane closures, including intermittent full closures of the roadway, beginning after the evening rush hour. Temporary, full roadway closures, each lasting 15 minutes, will be scheduled between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., ahead of the morning rush hour.

Individual gantries will be delivered in three sections in advance of each overnight installation and assembled on site in the work zone. Construction of each gantry will begin with installation of the center support and then installation of the gantry over the eastbound and westbound side of I-90.

Information about each individual gantry installation and the corresponding lane closures will be listed in the Tollway's daily lane closure alerts, which can be found on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The new I-90 SmartRoad corridor will include a total of 56 high-tech gantries placed every half mile between the Kennedy Expressway and Barrington Road. Electrical wiring, fiber optic cable and infrastructure to support the new gantries have been completed as part of the roadway rebuilding and widening construction.

Installation of the new gantries will start on the east end of the corridor and continue throughout the summer and fall in coordination with the ongoing roadway rebuilding and widening work. Each of the gantries installed will already be equipped with electronic signage and message boards, but will not be operational until the new system testing is complete and the I-90 SmartRoad goes live in spring 2017.



I-90 SmartRoad

As part of the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project, the entire I-90 corridor has been reconstructed to include flexible infrastructure to enable the Tollway to add new "smart" features as needed or as they become available in the years to come. The new gantries will not be used for toll collection or toll violation enforcement. The new I-90 SmartRoad will feature:

- Active traffic management (ATM) - ATM will provide real-time information to drivers including nature and status of traffic incidents, advisory speeds, real-time lane closures, traffic pattern changes and alternate routes via electronic signs specific to each lane of traffic and message boards.
- State-of-the-art wireless traffic sensors - New traffic sensors will be activated to provide more comprehensive travel time information. Sensors will also be added to ramps along the corridor, enabling the Tollway to monitor them for potential backups.
- Integrated transit with Pace - SmartRoad will create the option for Pace buses to travel in the new Flex Lanes (inside lanes and shoulders) on I-90 to route around congestions and provide reliable service.

To support the new SmartRoad, the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project includes upgrades and expansion of the roadway camera system on I-90 from analog to digital high-definition to enhance the Tollway's ability to better respond to roadway incidents. The new roadway cameras will provide increased coverage and include the full length of the I-90 corridor from O'Hare International Airport to Rockford.

Enhancements will also include state-of-the-art weather stations upgraded to provide pavement monitoring and weather conditions at critical locations, including bridges throughout the system.

In addition, the SmartRoad gantries will include overhead electronic message boards with higher-resolution, full-color graphic capable models, which will feature smaller, four-color digital message signs to enhance communications with drivers throughout the corridor.

Construction information about the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and 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 Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) remains 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-90 a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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.

I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project

The \$2.5 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project will deliver a 21st century, state-of-the-art corridor linking Rockford to O'Hare International Airport. The I-90 corridor from downtown Chicago to Rockford serves nearly one million travelers per day. The project encompasses 62 miles and features six reconstructed and expanded lanes from Randall Road to I-39 near Rockford completed in 2014 and reconstruction and expansion to eight lanes from the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to Randall Road in Elgin to be completed in 2016. The new I-90 will also feature significant improvements to seven interchanges and bus on shoulder service along the eastern segment in partnership with Pace. In addition, the new I-90 includes flexible infrastructure to enable the Tollway to add new "smart" features and future transit expansion for the first time in the agency's history.

The I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. The I-90 bridges were constructed as part of the original Tollway system in the 1950s.

Illinois Tollway Keeps Drivers Informed

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 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 Project 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).

###