



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2016

CONTACT: Jan Kemp
630-241-6800 ext. 2381
jkemp@getipass.com

**RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK IN AURORA ON THE
REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) FARNSWORTH INTERCHANGE**

*Full closures with detours for four ramps with lane reductions
and traffic shifts on Farnsworth Avenue for bridge reconstruction*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Four ramps are scheduled to close with posted detours this week and all Farnsworth Avenue traffic is scheduled to shift onto the southbound side of the bridge by the end of June as the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora continues.

Electronic message signs and detour signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to dates and times for the scheduled closures and ramp detours. The closures are necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates the construction of the new ramps. All work is weather dependent.

The Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project will provide a new bridge and interchange improvements including removal of two ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and from northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88. The existing ramps at the interchange will be reconfigured to accommodate these traffic movements and improve traffic flow on Farnsworth Avenue and I-88. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

Beginning the week of June 20, the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 will be closed permanently for removal and detours will be posted. Traffic on eastbound I-88 exiting to northbound Farnsworth Avenue will be detoured via Diehl Road, Eola Road and Butterfield Road. Traffic on northbound Farnsworth Avenue entering westbound I-88 will be detoured via a similar route using Butterfield Road, Eola Road and Bilter Road.

In addition, ramp closures and detours will also be put in place for the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to southbound Farnsworth Avenue and southbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 as work begins to reconfigure the ramps. Traffic for both these ramps will be detoured via Illinois Route 31 and Indian Trail Road. These ramps will reopen this summer.



Once the ramp closures and detours are in place, work to remove and reconstruct the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge will begin. Southbound traffic on Farnsworth Avenue will first be shifted right onto temporary pavement and remain reduced to one lane to allow for pavement repairs to the southbound lanes. Two lanes will remain open for northbound traffic on Farnsworth Avenue.

Once that work is complete, during the week of June 27, traffic is scheduled to shift into the southbound lanes to allow for the removal of the existing northbound side of the bridge over I-88 and construction of a new bridge. Two lanes will remain open for southbound traffic and one lane will be available for

drivers traveling northbound on Farnsworth Avenue. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of the year.

Throughout construction, traffic shifts will also be needed on ramps open to traffic, and 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.

In addition, no pedestrians will be allowed on the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge throughout construction. Signage is in place to direct pedestrians to use Church Road to cross over I-88.

The Farnsworth Avenue Interchange 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.

In 2016, the Illinois Tollway is removing and reconstructing the northbound side of the bridge and removing the two ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and from northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

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 to 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 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. On

Farnsworth Avenue, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season. On I-88, a 55 mph work zone speed limit will be in place.

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).

#