



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 23, 2016**

**DIXON INTERCHANGE RAMP ON REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) TO REOPEN  
IN ADVANCE OF PETUNIA FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

*Closure and detour scheduled to resume on July 5*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Dixon Interchange ramp bridge carrying eastbound Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) traffic over I-88 to Illinois Route 26 is scheduled to reopen temporarily next week in advance of the Dixon Petunia Festival and Fourth of July holiday weekend. The ramp closed in May for repairs and work is scheduled to be complete this fall.

On Wednesday, June 29, the ramp connecting eastbound I-88 to Illinois Route 26 is scheduled to reopen beginning at 11 p.m. The ramp will remain open through the holiday weekend, before closing again at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5, as work continues to complete bridge repairs. All work is weather dependent.

Once the ramp is closed, a posted detour will once again be put in place directing traffic to exit at U.S. Route 30 in Rock Falls located 11 miles west of the interchange and follow the detour route east to Illinois Route 26. Electronic message signs and detour signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to dates and times for the closure and detour.

Full closure of the ramp bridge is necessary because the bridge structure is not wide enough to maintain traffic and provide a work zone. In addition to providing a safe work zone for construction workers and drivers, closure of the bridges will allow work to be complete in half the time.

The Illinois Tollway is repairing six local crossroad bridges on the western segment of I-88 in 2016. Other local crossroad bridges include Hoyle, Atkinson, Bollman and Nelson Road Bridges. Work on the he Pump Factory Road Bridge has been complete. Repairs on the local crossroad bridge structures include pavement patching, bridge joint replacement and repairs on beams and girders.

All work is being coordinated with Whiteside and Lee Counties and the Illinois Department of Transportation, along with local municipalities, townships, school districts and police and fire departments. Up to 1,300 vehicles use the ramp on a daily basis.

Maps and construction project information about the [Reagan Memorial Tollway \(I-88\) Local Crossroad Bridge Project](#) is available in the "Projects by Roadway" section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

**Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that 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 I-88, a 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect.

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](http://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](http://www.travelmidwest.com) – Real-time travel times
- [www.twitter.com](http://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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