



Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY EXPECTS MORE THAN 8 MILLION VEHICLES
TO TAKE TO THE TOLLWAY OVER THE FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND**

Drivers are reminded to slow down in construction zones and Drop It and Drive for safe travel

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Fourth of July will kick off what has become the busiest travel month on the Illinois Tollway system with 8 million vehicles expected to travel the Tollway system over the holiday weekend.

From Friday, July 1, through Tuesday, July 5, the Illinois Tollway anticipates a 5 percent increase from the 7.6 million vehicles on the road during last year's Fourth of July weekend. The heaviest travel is anticipated on Friday, July 1, when nearly 2 million vehicles are projected to be on the road. On an average day, about 1.5 million vehicles use the Tollway.

To help drivers navigate traffic on the Tollways this summer, drivers are advised to start their weekend travel before lunch or after 8 p.m. on Fridays. This advice holds true for drivers on the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), drivers headed to lake visits in Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as drivers on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355).

"Summer travel on the Illinois Tollway has become increasingly busy, as more customers realize the benefits of our investments in our roadways and bridges," said Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "To help customers better navigate traffic this summer, we encourage motorists to start their weekend trips early or wait until later in the evening on Fridays."

To accommodate increased Fourth of July 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, July 1, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5. 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 to be in place during the holiday include:

Jane Adams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

- Between the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and the Elgin Toll Plaza, traffic shifts are in place for the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project.
- 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 and three manned lanes on the cash side of the plaza are closed.

Illinois Route 390 Tollway

Following the Fourth of July weekend, cashless toll collection will begin on Tuesday, July 5, between Lake Street (U.S. Route 20) and I-290. No toll booths or coin baskets are available. Customers without I-PASS must pay online or by mail within the 7-day grace period to avoid fines.

- Work continues on the Illinois Route 390 Tollway with construction along Thorndale Avenue 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 (I-88)

- 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 connecting eastbound I-88 to Illinois Route 26 in Dixon will reopen on Thursday, June 30, for the holiday weekend. The ramp will reclose following the holiday on July 5.
- At the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange, the I-88 eastbound exit ramps to Farnsworth Avenue and entrance ramps from Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 are closed with posted detours. Traffic on southbound Farnsworth Avenue is shifted to the right and reduced to one lane.

Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355)

- On southbound I-355 between 71st Street and 75th Street, traffic is shifted to the left and the ramps connecting southbound I-355 with 75th Street are shifted to the right.

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](https://twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 94/294

Drop It and Drive! – Using a hand-held phone and texting while driving is illegal in Illinois. Tollway customers can stop at any of the Safe Phone Zones located at Tollway oases to safely use their cellphones for calling, texting and accessing mobile apps. A map of Tollway oases can be found online at www.illinoistollway.com.

Drivers can also avoid tired driving by stopping at one of the seven Tollway oases for a break from the holiday rush. The oases provide drivers an opportunity to not only rest and refuel, but also enjoy a variety of services for travelers and access to retail shops, restaurants, spacious food courts, panoramic windows, kid-friendly spaces and free Wi-Fi services.

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.

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 State Police 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 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.”

District 15 special traffic details will 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 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.

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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