



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2016

TWO RAMPS REOPENED TO TRAFFIC AT FARNSWORTH INTERCHANGE ON THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA

*Two additional ramps will remain closed as work continues on
the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Two ramps connecting the eastbound Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) to southbound Farnsworth Avenue and southbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 in Aurora reopened today, August 23. The ramp closures were necessary to accommodate work on a new bridge and interchange improvements for the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project.

Construction on the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is ongoing as work continues to build the new bridge and interchange reconstruction scheduled to be complete in 2017. Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to new traffic patterns. Traffic shifts and ramp closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic.

The ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 are now closed permanently for removal and detours remain in place as new ramps are constructed to accommodate traffic. Traffic on eastbound I-88 exiting to northbound Farnsworth Avenue is detoured via Diehl Road, Eola Road and Butterfield Road. Traffic on northbound Farnsworth Avenue entering westbound I-88 is detoured via a similar route using Butterfield Road, Eola Road and Bilter Road.



In addition, Farnsworth Avenue traffic will remain shifted 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 continue to 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, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.

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 292 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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