



Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

NEWS

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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ROADWAY SERVICES HELP
MAKE LABOR DAY WEEKEND TRAVEL SAFE, CONVENIENT**

Nearly 8 million vehicles expected on the Tollway system over Labor Day weekend

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway reminds drivers hitting the road this Labor Day weekend that a variety of emergency roadway services are available to help make their trips safer, more efficient and more enjoyable. Tollway customers who need roadway assistance can dial *999 to get help 24/7 from the Tollway’s roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police District 15.

“The Illinois Tollway wants its customers to have a safe, fun Labor Day weekend,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “So, motorists heading out for one last summer road trip of the year should be aware that the Tollway provides a variety of roadway services to help keep them safe when traveling the Tollway system.”

The Illinois Tollway anticipates 7.8 million vehicles will travel the Tollway system this Labor Day weekend from Friday, September 2, through Tuesday, September 6. That includes vehicles traveling on the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway, which became a toll road in July 2016, with cashless tolling from Lake Street (U.S. Route 20) to I-290. The heaviest travel is expected on Friday, September 2, when more than 1.9 million vehicles are projected to be on the Tollway system. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

Tollway maintenance staff and Illinois State Police District 15 provide motorist assistance 24/7, with additional motorist aid patrols available throughout the Labor Day weekend to assist Tollway customers. In addition, the Tollway’s Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks will also be patrolling the 292-mile Tollway system from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both Friday, September 2, and on Monday, September 5.

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled traveling on the Illinois Tollway should park safely on the shoulder, raise the hood and call *999 to report their location, closest milepost and nature of the incident. For safety, drivers and their passengers should remain in the vehicle until assistance arrives.

Tollway motorist aid patrols and H.E.L.P. truck operators will change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck. The H.E.L.P. program is sponsored exclusively by State Farm.

To accommodate increased Labor Day 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, September 1, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6. 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

- Work continues on the Illinois Route 390 Tollway with construction along Thorndale Avenue from I-290 to Illinois Route 83 and on the I-290 Interchange. Traffic is shifted onto frontage roads in both directions between I-290 and York Road.
- 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 carrying U.S. Route 30 to eastbound I-88 is closed with a posted detour.
- At the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange, the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 are permanently closed with posted detours. Traffic on southbound Farnsworth Avenue is shifted to the right and traffic on northbound Farnsworth Avenue is shifted to the left with one open 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 – 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.

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 Labor Day weekend. The goals of the State Police are not only to assist traveling motorists, but also to decrease traffic fatalities and serious personal injury accidents through high visibility and strict enforcement of all traffic laws.

District 15 will have additional officers working special enforcement details focusing on speed, distracted driving, truck lane restrictions and alcohol-related offenses.

“In addition, we will be conducting commercial vehicle enforcement details on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in an effort to reduce crashes and prevent fatalities,” said District 15 Commander Robert Meeder. “Please remember to buckle up all vehicle occupants, put your phones down while driving and slow down and move over safely when you see an emergency vehicle on the shoulder.”

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 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), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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