



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2016

**NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN IN PLACE FOR WINTER TRAVEL ON FARNSWORTH AVENUE
OVER THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA**

New traffic signals to be activated and detours for interchange ramps removed

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is shifting traffic and activating new traffic signals on the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora to accommodate winter travel as work on the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project continues. In addition, ramp detours in place for interchange reconstruction will be removed for the winter season.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the traffic shifts and signals. The new traffic pattern is necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates the construction. All work is weather dependent.

Today, November 4, northbound traffic on the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge will be shifted back into two lanes on the newly constructed northbound side of the bridge, with two lanes of traffic remaining open for southbound traffic.

Beginning the week of November 7, new traffic signals will be activated on Farnsworth Avenue at the interchange to direct traffic through the new ramp configuration for drivers entering to westbound I-88 and exiting from eastbound I-88. The new signals will require traffic traveling on Farnsworth Avenue to stop to provide ramp access for northbound traffic on Farnsworth Avenue.

In addition, after the traffic signals are activated, detours will be removed for the permanently closed ramps connecting northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 and the eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue. The reconfigured ramps on the west side of Farnsworth Avenue now accommodate these traffic movements.

The Farnsworth Avenue Bridge will remain closed to pedestrian traffic. Signage is in place to direct pedestrians to use Church Road to cross over I-88.

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. Throughout the winter, long term shoulder closures will remain in place along I-88 at Farnsworth Avenue Bridge and off-peak lane and ramp closures may be needed on Farnsworth Avenue and I-88 to accommodate ongoing bridge and ramp construction.

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 completed removal and reconstruction of the northbound side of the bridge, along with the closure and removal of 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.

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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 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:

- 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
- travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- 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 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 throughout the 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 other 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 292 miles of roadways 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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