



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2016

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR RUSH HOUR AND WEEKEND SNOW

Drivers urged to slow down, watch for blowing snow

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 192 snowplows in response to snow that is expected to fall during tonight’s evening rush hour and continue through Saturday, December 17, with blowing snow possibly reducing visibility for drivers in some areas. The Tollway’s Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency’s systemwide response.

“Our crews will be working through the weekend to keep roads clear so our customers can safely complete their evening commutes and reach their destinations this weekend,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “We are asking drivers to please slow down, maintain a safe margin between vehicles and be alert for blowing snow that could cut visibility.”

To respond to this winter storm, the Illinois Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of snow and ice. To help with snow removal efforts, the Tollway has cancelled all temporary lane closures from 3 p.m. Friday, December 16, through 8 a.m. Sunday, December 18.

During heavy snowfall, snowplows often work in tandem to remove as much ice, slush and snow as possible from all lanes at once. When it is safe to pass, the plows spread out and allow traffic to flow around them.

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled should dial *999 from a cellphone for assistance from Illinois State Police District 15. Drivers should note the roadway and direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.

Travelers who want to take a break from the snowfall can stop at any of the Tollway’s six oases pavilions, which are open 24 hours a day. The oases provide a variety of food, beverage and retail offerings, as well as fuel stations. On the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), there are four oases: Lake Forest, O’Hare, Hinsdale and Chicago Southland Lincoln in South Holland. There also are oases on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Belvidere and on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb.

Illinois Tollway Keeps Drivers Informed

In addition to working to keep roads free of snow and ice, the Illinois Tollway provides drivers with information to help them reach their destinations safely during winter weather events.

The Illinois Tollway’s Traffic and Incident Management System (TIMS) provides real-time travel times and roadway conditions on over-the-road electronic message signs throughout the Tollway.

Real-time roadway incident information including the type of incident, location and impact on traffic is also available on illinoistollway.com or via Twitter to assist drivers in planning their trips. Drivers can sign up for Tollway Trip Tweets at twitter.com from the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com.

Tweeters can follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them. The five are Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 94/294, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 390.

Before traveling, customers can access live camera feeds that offer “bird’s-eye” views from 20 different locations along the Tollway system. The camera feeds are easily accessible by selecting the “Interactive Tollway Map” link on the Tollway’s homepage at illinoistollway.com.

In addition, the Tollway operates a toll-free telephone line to keep customers up-to-date about weather conditions on its roadways. Customers can call 1-800-TOLL-FYI (1-800-865-5394) for recorded information updated every two hours or as conditions require during winter storms.

Winter Weather Travel Tips

While the Illinois Tollway is doing its part to keep the roads clear and traffic moving, drivers need to do their part, as well. The Tollway offers the following [winter weather driving tips](#):

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, mirrors and lights on your vehicle before you drive.
- Adjust speed to road conditions and increase the distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
- Reduce speed at toll plazas.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changes.
- Stay alert to avoid distracted driving.
- Be sure that all passengers are securely restrained in safety belts or child safety seats.
- Keep away from snowplows and do not use the shoulder of the road to pass a snowplow.
- Call *999 for roadway assistance.

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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