



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2016

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY OASES PERK UP CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WITH FREE COFFEE

Tollway offers winter weather travel tips to help drivers stay safe on the roadways

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Illinois Tollway customers are invited to take a break from the holiday grind by picking up a complimentary cup of coffee at Tollway oases on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Customers will also get a break on the roadways, as the Tollway will suspend temporary construction and maintenance lane closures during the winter holidays.

"This holiday season, the Illinois Tollway is wishing its customers safe, smooth travels," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "We encourage holiday travelers to stop at a Tollway oasis for a free cup of coffee and to drive carefully, especially in winter weather conditions. Take it slow, avoid distracted driving and make sure everybody in the vehicle is buckled up."

In keeping with holiday tradition, 7-Eleven and McDonald's are inviting motorists to stop at a Tollway oasis for a free small cup of coffee on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Complimentary coffee will be at the following times and locations:

Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

- Des Plaines Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven
- Belvidere Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's

Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80)

- Lake Forest Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's
- O'Hare Oasis
 - 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at McDonald's
 - 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven
- Hinsdale Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's
- Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis
 - 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at McDonald's
 - 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven

Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)

- DeKalb Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's

Lane Closures Suspended

To accommodate winter holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, most construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers.

The Illinois Tollway expects more than 1.3 million vehicles to be on the Tollway system on Saturday, December 24, and nearly 1.2 million on Christmas Day. More than 1.2 million vehicles are expected on the Tollway system on Saturday, December 31, and 1 million vehicles are expected on the Tollway system on New Year's Day. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Friday, December 23, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 27, and from Friday, December 30, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

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)

- Roadway work is wrapping up for the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project. By the end of the year, four lanes are scheduled to be open in each direction between the Elgin Toll Plaza and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Illinois Route 390 Tollway

- Work continues on the Illinois Route 390 Tollway with construction along Thorndale Avenue from I-290 to York Road and on the I-290 Interchange. Traffic is shifted onto frontage roads in both directions between I-290 and York Road.

Illinois State Police District 15 Combines Visibility with Strict Enforcement

The Illinois State Police District 15 will be out in full force throughout the Illinois Tollway system during the winter holidays. Special enforcement details focused on speeding, distracted driving, seatbelt use and alcohol-related violations will be the focus to help keep motorists safe.

"The idea is to combine high visibility with strict enforcement to reduce speeds and prevent serious injury crashes," said District 15 Commander Robert Meeder. "We want everyone to enjoy the holidays and make it home safely."

Holiday 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 [tips](#):

- Follow Tollway Trip Tweets for real-time roadway incident information – [@94_294_Tollway](#), [@I_90_Tollway](#), [@I_88_Tollway](#), [@I_355_Tollway](#) and [@IL_390_Tollway](#)
- Stay alert to avoid distracted driving – [Drop It and Drive](#).
- Be sure that all passengers are securely restrained in safety belts or child safety seats.
- Call *999 for roadway assistance.
- Get up-to-date weather conditions on the Tollway at 1-800-TOLL-FYI (1-800-865-5394)

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.

###