



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2017

**TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED AS WORK RESUMES ON FARNSWORTH AVENUE
BRIDGE OVER THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA**

Traffic on Farnsworth Avenue over I-88 will be shifted in March

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Bridge construction will resume next week on the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

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

Weather permitting, beginning Wednesday, March 1, Farnsworth Avenue traffic in both directions will be shifted onto the newly constructed portion of the bridge to allow for the removal and construction of the other half of the bridge.

Two lanes of traffic will remain open in both directions on Farnsworth Avenue during this stage of construction, although periodic off-peak lane closures will be scheduled as needed. Traffic is expected to remain in this configuration through summer.

All ramps will remain open during this stage of bridge construction, with traffic on some ramps shifted to provide a work zone. Later in the construction season, ramp access to and from the west will be slightly modified with a detour to accommodate bridge construction.

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.

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

The 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.

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.

-more-

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 be complete in 2017.

In 2016, the Illinois Tollway completed removal and reconstruction of the side of the bridge carrying northbound traffic, along with the closure and reconfiguration of two ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and from northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88.

When complete, the new, two-span bridge 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. The new bridge will feature 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*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first five years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor and opening a new interchange connecting the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57. Progress continues on projects addressing the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system, delivering the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project and planning for emerging projects, including reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

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.

#