



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2017

**OVERNIGHT LANE, RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK
ON THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA**

*Temporary full closures planned for bridge beam removal
as part of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight ramp and intermittent full roadway closures are scheduled next week on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) for bridge replacement work as part of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project in Aurora.

Lane closures for bridge beam removal work are currently underway during overnight hours throughout March to minimize the impact on traffic. Electronic message signs and construction signage are in place in advance to alert drivers. The additional ramp and roadway closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate reconstruction of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange.

Weather permitting, during the week of March 27, two nights of overnight work, including intermittent, full roadway closures and ramp closures, will be scheduled between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. for bridge beam removal.

On I-88, overnight work is scheduled to begin each night with the closure of one lane in both directions at 7 p.m., and the closure of a second lane in both directions at 10 p.m. The Intermittent, full closures of I-88, each lasting 15 minutes, will be scheduled to begin at 10:30 p.m. on the westbound side of I-88 on the first night and on the eastbound side on the second night of work.

To accommodate removal of the bridge over the westbound lanes on I-88, the ramp from westbound I-88 to southbound Farnsworth Avenue is scheduled to close at 10 p.m. to provide a work zone for the first night of work. In addition, to accommodate bridge removal over the eastbound lanes on I-88, the ramp from southbound Farnsworth Avenue to eastbound I-88 is scheduled to close at 10 p.m. for the second night of work. No detours will be posted for the overnight ramp closures. Drivers will be able to access southbound Farnsworth via the Eola Road Interchange to the east.

All lanes on I-88 and the ramps will be scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning, ahead of the morning rush hour.

On Farnsworth Avenue, all traffic is currently shifted into the northbound lanes to accommodate the removal and reconstruction of the southbound side of the bridge over I-88. Two lanes remain open in both directions. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer.

The ramp and lane closures are 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 Explore Projects section on the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com.

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.

The Farnsworth Interchange Project

The \$19 million Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is reconfiguring ramps and 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. 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.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- illinoistollway.com – Explore Projects 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 ILTollway, 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.