



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2017

**WORK SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FOR REMOVAL OF ABANDONED RAILROAD CROSSING
ON THE WESTERN END OF THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88)**

*Lane reductions scheduled to construct temporary pavement in preparation for traffic shift into
westbound lanes near Dixon*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway will begin work next week to prepare for the removal of two mainline bridges over an abandoned railroad track on the far western segment of the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) near Dixon. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to lane reductions and construction work zones.

As part of I-88 maintenance and improvements scheduled for 2017, the Illinois Tollway is removing two mainline bridges over an abandoned railroad crossing and constructing new roadway. Work includes pavement and shoulder reconstruction, as well as drainage, embankment and landscaping work.

Weather permitting, on Monday, May 15, at 7 a.m. the left westbound lane and shoulder from U.S. Route 52 to just beyond Illinois Route 26 will close for two weeks to prepare median crossovers that will be used for traffic shifts during construction. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration until the Memorial Day weekend.

Work to remove the mainline bridges is scheduled to begin in June and continue through the end of the year. Throughout construction, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction and shifted onto one side of the road using the median crossovers. The closures are necessary to provide a work zone for construction and safely accommodate traffic.

In addition, traffic on eastbound I-88 is currently reduced from two lanes to one lane between U.S. Route 52 and U.S. Route 30 in Rock Falls for a roadway resurfacing project.

The lane closures and construction are being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Lee County and local fire and police departments.

Roadway improvements on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) between U.S. Route 52 and U.S. Route 30 in Rock Falls are necessary to maintain and extend the life of the roadway and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. The work is scheduled to be complete by summer and is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Construction information about the [I-88 Roadway Improvement 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 I-88, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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 – 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 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, \$14 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.

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