



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 28, 2017

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY EXPECTS BUSIEST TRAVEL DAY OF THE YEAR DURING FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Traveler Quick Links help drivers prepare for travel over the extended holiday weekend

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – With nearly 8 million vehicles expected to travel on the Illinois Tollway system over the extended Fourth of July holiday weekend – including the busiest travel day of the year anticipated on June 30 – drivers should plan ahead before hitting the road.

To prepare for trips short or long, drivers can check out <u>Traveler Quick Links</u> on the Tollway's website.

- Money in Your Account? Learn about using I-PASS on other Tollways and adding a transponder to your I-PASS account.
- Running on Empty? Find an oasis or pay an unpaid toll.
- What's Traffic Like? Sign up for Tollway incident alerts on Twitter, check current travel times or view roadway cameras.
- Why Drive 45? Review work zone safety rules and find out about construction.

The Illinois Tollway expects about 7.7 million vehicles will travel systemwide from Friday, June 6, through Tuesday, July 4. The heaviest travel is anticipated on Friday, June 30, when nearly 2.1 million vehicles are expected on the road. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Tollway.

Need Help? Dial *999

If your vehicle becomes disabled, call *999 for assistance. Illinois State Police District 15 patrols the 292-mile Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and Tollway motorist aid patrols stand ready to help stranded customers change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck.

Holiday Work Zones

To accommodate increased Fourth of July holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, most construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Friday, May 30, until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule, but this work will not impact traffic. All work is weather dependent.

The Tollway encourages customers to slow down and pay attention in work zones. The speed limit in work zones is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even when workers are not present. Areas where work zones will continue during the holiday include:

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

- Between Ballard Road and Gold Road, traffic shifts are in place.
- Near the I-290 interchange, traffic shifts are in place.
- At the 127th Street Interchange Traffic shifts and lane closures are in place.
- On the Mile Long Bridge, traffic in both directions is shifted.

Jane Adams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

• At Illinois Route 23, traffic in both directions is reduced to two lanes.

Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)

- Just west of Illinois Route 26 in Dixon, all traffic is shifted on to the westbound side of the road and traffic in both directions is reduced to one lane.
- At the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange, all ramps are open. Westbound traffic is shifted.

Illinois Route 390 Tollway

 Along Thorndale Avenue from I-290 to York Road and on the I-290 Interchange, construction is ongoing. Traffic is shifted onto frontage roads in both directions between I-290 and York Road.

Drop It and Drive

Remember to Drop It and Drive because it is illegal to use a hand-held device when driving in Illinois. Some form of driver distraction involving a cellphone was responsible for more than 7,000 crashes in Illinois from 2011 to 2016. Forty-three of these crashes were fatal. Stop by any of the Safe Phone Zones sponsored by Geico located at Tollway oases to safely use your cellphone.

Illinois State Police District 15 Out in Force

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

Illinois State Police District 15 reminds motorists that the "Move Over Law" requires motorists to change lanes when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with emergency lights activated. If changing lanes is not safe or possible, motorists are required to slow down and proceed with caution when passing the emergency vehicle. This law also applies to any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights activated. If you see flashing lights ahead, please move over or slow down.

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.