



Move Illinois:  
*The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 29, 2017**

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY URGES HOLIDAY DRIVERS TO TRAVEL SAFELY,  
STAY OFF THEIR PHONES AND BUCKLE UP**

*More than 8 million vehicles expected on the Tollway system this Labor Day weekend*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Labor Day weekend is typically the last chance for many people to take trips before summer ends, so with more than 8 million vehicles expected to take to the Illinois Tollway this weekend, the Illinois Tollway is reminding drivers to buckle up, stay off their phones and drive responsibly.

“One fatality on our roadways is too many, so we’re urging drivers to be responsible when getting behind the wheel and look out for the safety of themselves and others on the road,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “We want to keep our roadways safe so that everyone enjoys their holiday weekend.”

The Illinois Tollway expects more than 8 million vehicles will travel on its 292-mile system from Friday, September 1, through Tuesday, September 5. The heaviest travel is anticipated on Friday, September 1, when nearly 2 million vehicles are expected on the road. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Tollway.

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

**[Need Help? Dial \\*999](#)**

Tollway customers can call \*999 to get help from Tollway roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police District 15. 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. The Tollway’s Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks will also be patrolling the Tollway system from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both Friday, September 1, and on Monday, September 4. District 15 troopers patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**[Drop It and Drive](#)**

Drivers are reminded to Drop It and Drive. 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. Drivers who need to use their

cellphone on the way to their destinations can stop by any of the Safe Phone Zones sponsored by Geico located at Tollway oases.

### Holiday Work Zones

To accommodate increased Labor Day 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, September 1, until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 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)**

- On the Mile Long Bridge, traffic in both directions is shifted.
- At the Grand Avenue Interchange, westbound I-94 traffic is shifted. Additionally, the eastbound Grand Avenue entrance ramp to westbound I-94 is closed and detoured.

#### **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 eastbound 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.

#### **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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