



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 14, 2017**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY REMINDS DRIVERS TO GIVE THEM DISTANCE TO STAY SAFE ON THE ROADWAYS DURING BUSY HOLIDAY TRAVEL DAYS**

*Tollway Oases spread holiday cheer with free coffee for Christmas and New Year's*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway anticipates drivers will get a jump start on this season's holiday travel on Friday, December 15, with more than 1.8 million vehicles expected on the Tollway system and more than 1.7 million vehicles traveling each day next week. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

While on the road this holiday season, drivers should be alert to any vehicle on the side of the road with emergency or hazard lights flashing. When approaching vehicles with flashing lights, drivers should slow down and change lanes safely.

“Our goal is simple. Let's create safer roadways throughout Illinois – slow down, move over and Give Them Distance,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “Our drivers have a right to be safe when they are traveling and need to pull over in the case of an emergency, but they also need to remember to do their part as well and take precautions when flashing lights and another vehicle or workers on the side of the road come into view.”

The Illinois Tollway anticipates 1.2 million vehicles will travel on the Tollway system on Sunday, December 24, and nearly 1.3 million on Christmas Day. More than 1 million vehicles are expected on the Tollway system on Sunday, December 31, and New Year's Day.

### **Spreading Holiday Cheer**

In keeping with holiday tradition, 7-Eleven and McDonald's are inviting motorists to stop at a Tollway oasis for a free small cup of coffee on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### **Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)**

- Des Plaines Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven
- Belvidere Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's

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

- Lake Forest Oasis – 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's
- O'Hare Oasis – 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at McDonald's and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven.
- Hinsdale Oasis – 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's
- Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis – 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at McDonald's and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven

### **Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)**

- DeKalb Oasis, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. at 7-Eleven and McDonald's

[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 weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. District 15 troopers patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **What's Traffic Like?**

All Temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Friday, December 22, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 26, and again from noon on Friday, December 29, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2. To prepare for trips short or long, drivers can check out [Traveler Quick Links](#) on the Tollway's website to access real-time travel times and roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.

### **Transponder in Every Car**

Keeping an I-PASS transponder in each vehicle and making sure it's properly mounted will ensure successful toll payments on the 294-mile Tollway system and in other states that accept I-PASS, including Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and 12 other states that are part of the E-ZPass network. Transponders can be shared between cars and motorcycles registered to the same I-PASS account, but the transponder must be properly mounted in your vehicle whenever you drive on the Tollway

### **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 294 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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