



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 18, 2019**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR WEEKEND SNOWFALL**

*Drivers reminded to slow down, watch for blowing and drifting snow*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to snow expected to continue falling through Saturday, possibly creating slippery pavement conditions and reduced visibility that could affect drivers during their weekend travels. The Tollway’s Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency’s systemwide response.

“Keeping our customers, workers and first responders safe is our top priority, so we’re urging drivers to reduce their speed and be alert for plows and emergency vehicles that will be out clearing roads and assisting drivers who need help,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “To enhance safety, the Tollway also is using Twitter to offer drivers real-time updates that describe changing pavement conditions on all five of our roadways during winter storms.”

Drivers can receive the latest updates on pavement conditions during the snowfall, along with information about delays and roadway incidents, by viewing the tweets for each Tollway. The tweets describe conditions for each roadway based on milepost markers, which allows the Tollway to customize its tweets for specific portions of its roadways to provide the most accurate information to drivers.

The roadway reports will be updated frequently during the storm as pavement conditions change to better assist customers in planning their trips.

The roadway and incident information offered in the tweets is provided by Tollway maintenance crews and the agency’s Traffic Operations Center, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Drivers can receive real-time information on pavement conditions and roadway incidents by signing up for Tollway Trip Tweets at [twitter.com](https://twitter.com) from the Tollway’s website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com). Tweeters can follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them.

The five are: @94\_294\_Tollway, @I\_90\_Tollway, @I\_88\_Tollway, @I\_355\_Tollway and @IL\_390\_Tollway.

The Tollway and other Illinois transportation and safety agencies also have launched the Give Them Distance campaign to remind drivers to slow down and change lanes safely when they see any stopped vehicle with flashing emergency or hazard lights. Drivers can visit [www.GiveThemDistance.com](http://www.GiveThemDistance.com) for more information on this safe-driving initiative.

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled should activate their hazard lights and dial \*999 from a cellphone for assistance from Illinois State Police District 15. Drivers will be asked to note the roadway they are using, as well as the direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad. For crashes involving property damage only, drivers should report the incident to 630-241-6800 ext. 5042 and continue driving.

To respond to this weather event, the Illinois Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of snow and ice.

During heavy snowfall, snowplows often work in tandem to remove as much ice, slush and snow as possible from all lanes at once. When it is safe to pass, the plows spread out and allow traffic to flow around them.

**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 interstate tollways 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.

# # #