



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2019

**OVERNIGHT LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)
FOR BRIDGE BEAM REMOVAL AT THE O'HARE OASIS**

Temporary, full closures planned March 17 through 21

DOWNTERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this weekend on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at the O'Hare Oasis for removal of the bridge beams on the over-the-road pavilion structure.

Bridge beam removal will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The temporary closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate bridge beam removal.

Weather permitting, on Sunday, March 17, at 8 p.m. one southbound lane on I-294 is scheduled to close, followed by closure of a second lane at 10 p.m. and a third at midnight. Intermittent, full closures of southbound I-294, each lasting 15 minutes, will be allowed between 12:30 and 4 a.m. for bridge beam removal. All lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Monday, March 18. A second night of southbound closures is scheduled for Monday into Tuesday, March 19, to complete removal of beams over the southbound lanes of I-294.

In addition, once southbound bridge beam removal is complete, two nights of closures in the northbound lanes of I-294 are anticipated overnight Tuesday into Wednesday, March 20, and again overnight Wednesday into Thursday, March 21, to complete removal of all the bridge beams. All work is weather dependent.

The O'Hare Oasis fuel stations and convenience stores operated by 7-Eleven remain open to provide services for both northbound and southbound travelers along I-294. During removal of bridge beams, the ramp will be open for fuel station access, except when overnight, full traffic stops are in place.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Village of Schiller Park, Village of Rosemont and Village of Franklin Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

Removing the O'Hare Oasis will allow a fifth lane to be added in each direction between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road in Franklin Park, as part of the Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway Project. Following removal of the over-the-road pavilion, the O'Hare Oasis parking lots will be restored. The work is scheduled to be complete in 2019.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is being rebuilt from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. In 2018, the Illinois Tollway work began to repair, resurface and widen I-294 to five lanes as well as reconstructing barrier walls, medians and shoulders in the northern section of the project between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road in Franklin Park.

The Central Tri-State Project also includes reconfiguring the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294, rebuilding the Mile Long Bridge and the BNSF Railway Bridge as well as integrating Flex Lanes and SmartRoad technology. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com via the Interactive Tollway Map and under "Projects Overview" in the Explore Projects section.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) remains 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-294, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

The Illinois Tollway reminds motorists that the "Move Over Law" requires motorists to change lanes or to slow down and proceed with caution when passing any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights activated. If you see flashing lights ahead, please move over or slow down.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones or failure to comply with the Move Over Law.

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.

Penalties for failure to slow down or move over for a vehicle on the shoulder with flashing lights includes up to a \$10,000 fine, 2-year suspension of driving privileges and jail time, in extreme cases.

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 seven years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for emerging projects.

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.