



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 5, 2020**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR OVERNIGHT WINTER STORM**

*Drivers reminded to slow down, keep safe distance from plows and emergency vehicles*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to snow moving into the region today and continuing through Thursday, at times causing variable road conditions and reduced visibility that could delay drivers during their evening and morning commutes. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency's systemwide response.

"We're focused on keeping our customers safe throughout this storm by quickly removing snow and ice from our roads and by rapidly responding to any drivers who need assistance," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We're asking drivers to please help us by slowing down, allowing extra time to safely reach their destinations and by giving our snowplows the extra room they need to keep the roads clear."

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

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.

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 [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.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 also should use caution when passing snowplows. 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.

The Illinois Tollway reminds customers that [oases located along the Tollway system](#) provide drivers an opportunity to check their vehicles or simply take a break. The oases provide a variety of food, beverage and retail offerings, as well as 7-Eleven stores and fuel stations. On the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), there are four oases: Lake Forest, O'Hare, Hinsdale and Chicago Southland Lincoln in South Holland. There is an oasis on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb and on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Belvidere.

**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.

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