BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER I-294

The BNSF Railroad Bridge carries the triple-track railroad over the Central Tri-State (I-294) Tollway between Hinsdale and Western Springs. The Tollway is reconstructing the bridge in part to provide a wide enough opening to accommodate maintaining four lanes of travel in each direction during mainline construction, and therefore, the project is moving in advance of the Central Tri-State mainline reconstruction. Additionally, the opening under the bridge is being increased to provide flexibility for additional lanes for future demand.

Prior to rebuilding the current bridge, the Tollway will build a bypass bridge carrying three tracks over I-294 in order to maintain continual freight and commuter rail operations. Once the bypass bridge is complete, the main bridge will be rebuilt and lengthened.

As the bridge is expected to last for decades to come, the bridge is being designed to accommodate foreseeable future needs to the greatest extent possible.

PROJECT STATISTICS

On average, approximately 104 Metra and Amtrak trains cross this bridge daily as well as 52 daily freight trains.

The Central Tri-State supports existing traffic volumes of approximately 213,500 daily vehicles, including commercial freight percentages up to 17%.

The BNSF Railroad Bridge is the narrowest bridge on the busiest section of the Tollway. Its narrow width creates substandard 4 foot shoulders and is a choke point to accommodate future demand.
Project information can be found in the Outreach section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.
Please email comments to 294tristate@getipass.com.
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