



# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2018

### ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR WEEKEND SNOWFALL

*Drivers reminded to slow down, allow more time for travels*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to snowfall beginning tonight and continuing into Sunday, possibly affecting drivers during their weekend trips. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency's systemwide response.

"We are urging drivers to slow down, allow extra time for their trips and be alert for slippery areas, particularly on ramps and bridges," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "Conditions may vary as the storm moves through, so we are asking our customers to maintain a safe margin between vehicles and to give our plows the extra room they need to safely clear the roads."

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. To help with snow removal efforts, the Tollway has cancelled all temporary lane closures through 11 p.m. Sunday, February 4.

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.

When traveling, drivers should be alert to any vehicle on the side of the road with emergency or hazard lights flashing and remember to [Give Them Distance](#) by obeying the Move Over Law by slowing down and changing lanes safely.

Travelers who want to take a break from the snowfall can stop at any of the Tollway's six oases pavilions, which are open 24 hours a day. The oases provide a variety of food, beverage and retail offerings, as well as 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 also are oases on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Belvidere and on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb.

### Illinois Tollway Keeps Drivers Informed

In addition to working to keep roads free of snow and ice, the Illinois Tollway provides drivers with information to help them reach their destinations safely during winter weather events.

The Illinois Tollway's Traffic and Incident Management System provides real-time travel times and roadway conditions on over-the-road electronic message signs throughout the Tollway.

Real-time roadway incident information including the type of incident, location and impact on traffic is also available on [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) or via Twitter to assist drivers in planning their trips. Drivers can

sign 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 Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 94/294, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 390.

### **Tollway Travel Tips**

The Tollway offers the following [tips for winter weather events](#):

- Slow down and leave enough time to reach your destination.
- Do not make sudden lane changes and always use your turn signal.
- Don't follow too closely and increase your intervals between vehicles.
- Reduce speed on ramps and toll plazas.
- Remember to always wear your safety belt and ensure children under the age of 8 are securely restrained in child safety seats.
- Don't text or use a hand-held cellphone while driving. Both are illegal.

More information about safe winter driving is available at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com)

### **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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