



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2018

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR RUSH HOUR SNOWFALL

Drivers reminded to slow down, allow extra time for evening commutes

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is mobilizing its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to snowfall Monday that could affect drivers during their evening commutes and night-time travels. The Tollway’s Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency’s systemwide response.

“We will have full crews out clearing the roads to help our customers safely complete their evening commutes and return to their homes,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. “Drivers can help us protect them by slowing down and allowing themselves additional time to reach their destinations. We’re also reminding drivers to increase their interval between other vehicles and to give our plows the room they need to safely do their work.”

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 7 a.m. Tuesday, February 6.

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. Drivers should be alert for plows working on roadways and shoulders even after the storm ends as crews continue clearing snow to maintain safe driving conditions.

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.

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 or via Twitter to assist drivers in planning their trips. Drivers can sign up for Tollway Trip Tweets at twitter.com from the Tollway’s website at 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

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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