



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2018

EXTENDED LANE CLOSURES CONTINUE THIS WEEKEND FOR NORTH TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-94) ROADWAY REPAIRS

In addition to pavement repairs, barrier wall work is scheduled to resume at Grand Avenue in April

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Lane closures are scheduled to continue this weekend for roadway repairs on the North Tri-State Tollway (I-94) with closures extending south of Grand Avenue (Illinois Route 132). Delays are expected. Work at the Waukegan Toll Plaza is also scheduled to begin the week of March 26.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the traffic shifts. The new traffic pattern is necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic.

On Friday, March 23, beginning 4 p.m., on eastbound I-94 between Grand Avenue and O'Plaine Road one lane is scheduled to close with a second lane closing at 8 p.m. and a third lane closing at 11 p.m. In addition, on westbound I-94 at 6 p.m., one westbound lane is also scheduled to close between Grand Avenue and just south of Milwaukee Avenue (Illinois Route 21), with a second lane closing at 8 p.m. Lane reductions will remain in place in both directions through the weekend, with all lanes reopened by 5 a.m. on Monday, March 26.

At 5 a.m. on Monday, March 26, the two outside cash lanes at the westbound Waukegan Toll Plaza, including the wide-load lane, are scheduled to close for pavement repairs. Two cash lanes will remain open. Those lanes are expected to remain closed until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 29.

The week of April 2, similar closures are scheduled in the eastbound cash lanes at the toll plaza with three lanes, including the wide-load lane, closing at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 2, and reopening by 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 5. The week of April 9, the two inside cash lanes in both directions through the toll plazas will close Monday through Thursday, April 12.

The extended lane closures are needed to provide a work zone for concrete patching on the roadway. In addition to providing a safe work zone for construction workers and drivers, the extended closure of the lanes will allow repair work to be complete in half the time.

In 2018, the Illinois Tollway has repair work scheduled throughout the North Tri-State Tollway (I-94) between Russell Road and Half Day Road. Work will include roadway improvements and pavement patching, as well as lighting and drainage work and shoulder repairs.

In addition to roadway repairs, mainline barrier wall construction is scheduled to resume the week of April 2 at the Grand Avenue Interchange on the Tri-State Tollway (I-94) in Gurnee.

Weather permitting, on Monday, April 2, one westbound lane and the outside shoulder on I-94 will close at 6 p.m. to allow for removal of temporary barrier wall and the installation of the permanent structure. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by Memorial Day.

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These closures complete work which began in 2017 to extend the barrier wall separating the westbound exiting traffic from the tollway mainline traffic and moving traffic exiting to westbound Grand Avenue to the barrier-separated area. This will extend the barrier wall that was already separating the traffic exiting to eastbound Grand Avenue from I-94 mainline traffic.

Extension of the barrier wall will further improve traffic flow by separating exiting traffic to both eastbound and westbound Grand Avenue from northbound mainline I-94 traffic. The decision point for all drivers exiting to Grand Avenue will occur well ahead of both the exit ramp to eastbound Grand Avenue and the exit ramp to westbound Grand Avenue, and the new lane will provide additional space for exiting traffic to queue on the ramp side of the barrier wall if needed.

Improvements on the Tri-State Tollway are necessary to provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. The work is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Construction information about the [North Tri-State Tollway Repairs](#) 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 Tri-State Tollway (I-94) 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-94, 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.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- illinoistollway.com – Explore Projects section, Tollway Trip Calculator, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information
- 1-800-TOLL-FYI – Daily lane closure information
- travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- twitter.com – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.

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 five years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and

within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor and 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 Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project and planning for emerging projects, including reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

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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