



*Move Illinois:  
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 29, 2018**

**CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK  
FOR 159<sup>TH</sup> STREET INTERCHANGE WORK ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**

*Bridge and ramp reconstruction begins in Markham*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Temporary, overnight closures are scheduled next week on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to begin bridge reconstruction as part of improvements planned at the 159<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange in Markham. The bridge will remain open during construction, however ramp closures will be needed for interchange improvements.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the start of construction, as well as for ramp closures. The closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic.

In 2018, the Illinois Tollway has scheduled improvements at the 159<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange to coordinate with future local improvements planned for 159<sup>th</sup> Street. Work will include rebuilding the existing 159<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and reconstructing four ramps at the 159<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange: southbound I-294 to eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street, eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street to northbound I-294, northbound I-294 to westbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street and westbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street to southbound I-294. Lighting and drainage structures will also be upgraded.

The 159<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project will extend the life of the interchange, increase traffic capacity and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. More than 13,000 vehicles use this interchange daily.

Beginning the week of April 2, daily lane closures will be scheduled during off peak hours on 159<sup>th</sup> Street for median removal and temporary pavement work to prepare for traffic shifts for bridge reconstruction. Once that work is complete in mid-April, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

In addition, on I-294 roadway shoulder closures and overnight lane closures will be needed in both directions at 159<sup>th</sup> Street for temporary pavement work to prepare for traffic shifts to accommodate bridge reconstruction. Overnight ramp lane closures may also be needed during this time.

Beginning in mid-April, four-month full closures are scheduled to begin on the ramps carrying traffic from southbound I-294 to eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street and from eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street to northbound I-294. Detours will be posted.

Maps, construction and detour information about the 159<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project is available on the Tollway's website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) via the Interactive Tollway Map and under "Projects Overview" in the Explore Projects section.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and local fire and police departments.

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### **Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that 159<sup>th</sup> Street and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) 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-294, 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.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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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