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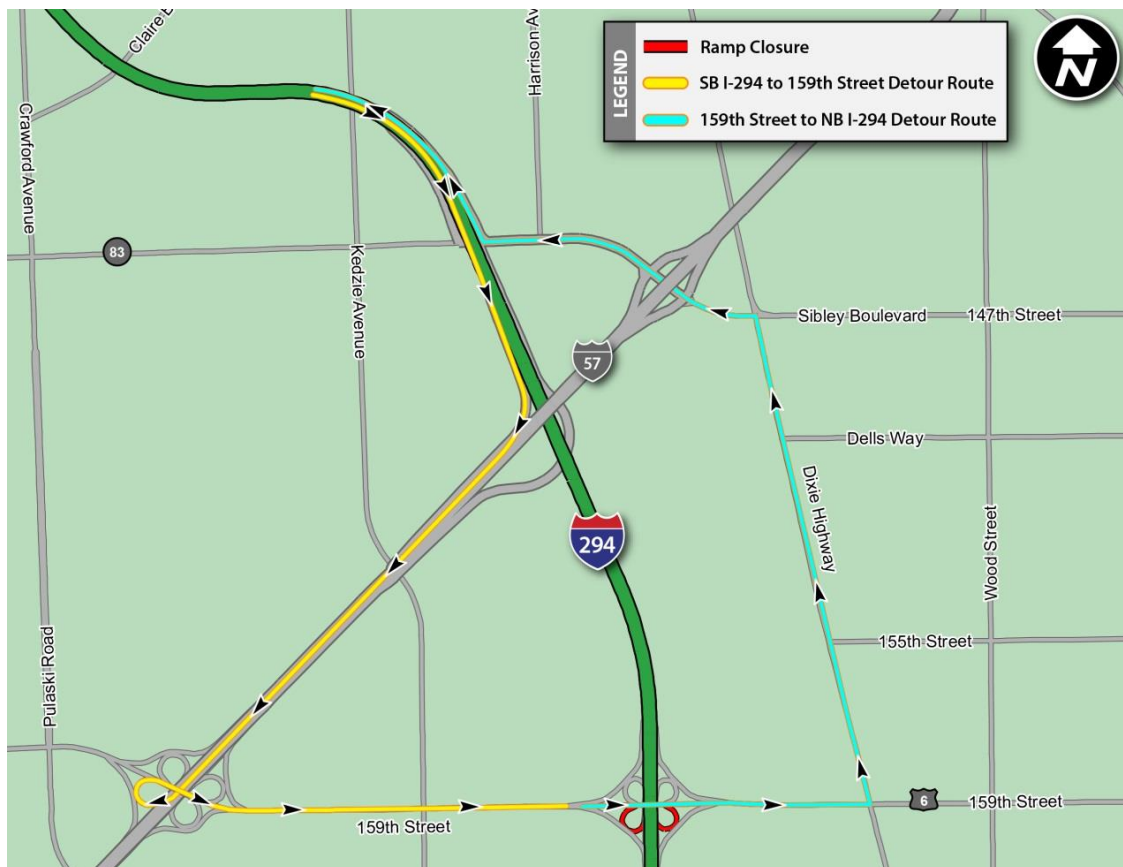
RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK FOR 159TH STREET INTERCHANGE WORK ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Bridge and ramp reconstruction continues with ramp closures in Markham

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Extended ramp closures are scheduled to begin this week for ramp repair work at the 159th Street Interchange on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Markham.

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

Weather permitting, on Thursday, May 3, the ramps connecting eastbound 159th Street to northbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to eastbound 159th Street are scheduled to close with posted detours until fall. The detour for eastbound 159th Street to northbound I-294 will direct traffic to Dixie Highway and Sibley Boulevard/147th Street and the detour for southbound I-294 will be posted directing traffic to southbound I-57 to eastbound 159th Street.



In addition, during the week of April 30, on 159th Street all traffic is scheduled to be shifted onto the westbound lanes and reduced to a single lane in each direction for bridge reconstruction. On I-294,

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traffic in both directions is scheduled to be shifted to the right with the same number of lanes open as were in place before construction began. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the summer.

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

The 159th 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.

Maps, construction and detour information about the 159th Street Bridge Project is available on the Tollway's website at 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.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that 159th Street and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) remain 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 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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