



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2018

CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK FOR ADVANCE WORK ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT

Shoulder closures and overnight lane reductions scheduled between Rosemont and Franklin Park

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Advance work will begin this week in the northern section of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project with initial construction scheduled between Balmoral Avenue in Rosemont and Wolf Road in Franklin Park as part of the Illinois Tollway's \$4 billion investment to increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability.

Weather permitting, on Monday, June 18, the outside shoulders in both directions on I-294 between Rosemont and Franklin Park will be closed for repair work scheduled to last through June. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures. All work is weather dependent.

When shoulder work is complete, traffic in both directions is scheduled to shift to the outside lanes and roadway work will begin between Balmoral Avenue and the O'Hare Oasis. The Tollway will maintain four lanes of traffic in both directions by shifting traffic to safely accommodate drivers and provide work zones during construction. Additional lane closures will be scheduled as needed during overnight and off-peak hours for construction.

Work to advance the Central Tri-State Tollway Project in the northern section includes repairing, resurfacing and widening I-294 to five lanes between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road in Franklin Park, as well as reconstructing barrier walls, medians and shoulders in this area.

As part of the work in this section, the bridges carrying I-294 over Irving Park Road, Lawrence Avenue and the Canadian National Railroad in Schiller Park will be repaired and portions of the ramps connecting Irving Park Road to I-294 will be reconstructed. Improvements as part of this project also include guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Village of Schiller Park, Village of Rosemont and Village of Franklin Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

The Central Tri-State Tollway is being reconstructed to provide congestion relief, reconstructed old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

A detailed planning and refinement process is underway to complete design and construction plans for reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294), including reconfiguring the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294, rebuilding the Mile Long Bridge and the BNSF Railway Bridge as well as integrating Flex Lanes and SmartRoad technology. The Central Tri-State Concept includes findings and draft recommendations being considered and evaluated by the Tollway as it moves forward in the reconstruction of the Central Tri-State.

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Maps, construction and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) 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.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central 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 six years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for emerging projects.

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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