



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 21, 2018**

**NIGHTLY LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) FOR WORK ON LOCAL CROSSROAD BRIDGES IN COOK AND DUPAGE COUNTIES**

*Extended lane closures and traffic shifts needed on local roads through the end of the year for bridge repairs*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to begin repair work on local crossroad bridges carrying traffic over the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Cook and DuPage Counties. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the start of bridge construction work and traffic patterns.

In 2018, seven local crossroad bridges carrying traffic over the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and two crossing Flagg Creek between Cermak Road in Westchester and 5th Avenue in Countryside will be repaired. All repairs are scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

Beginning this week and continuing into early July, week night overnight lane closures will be scheduled as needed on I-294 to install protective shielding on the bridges in advance of repair work.

Once the shielding is in place, repair work will begin on local crossroad bridges including Cermak Road, 31st Street, Ogden Avenue, 47th Street, 55th Street, Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue. In addition, the 47th Street and 55th Street bridges over Flagg Creek will be repaired.

All of the local crossroad bridges will remain open during construction with traffic shifted and reduced to one lane in each direction to safely accommodate both traffic and the work zone. Repairs will be completed in two stages and are expected to require up to four months at each bridge. Please check the [Daily Construction Alert](#) for up-to-date closure information.

Construction will be staggered at 47th Street and 55th Street, so the adjacent bridges are not under construction at the same time. The work at Ogden Avenue is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation's Ogden Avenue resurfacing project.

In most locations, local crossroad bridge repairs will include pavement patching, bridge deck repairs, bridge joint replacement and repairs on bridge beams, piers and girders.

Repair work is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, DuPage County, local communities, as well as local fire and police departments.

Information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) local crossroad bridge repairs 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.

## **Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads 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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