



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 27, 2018**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY URGES SAFE DRIVING IN WORK ZONES THIS FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY**

*More than 4.7 million vehicles expected to travel the Tollway this holiday*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is urging drivers to slow down in construction work zones and avoid distracted driving when traveling this Fourth of July holiday.

The Tollway expects more than 4.7 million vehicles to travel the Tollway system this Fourth of July holiday from Tuesday, July 3, through Thursday, July 5. The heaviest travel is expected on Tuesday, July 3, when nearly 1.9 million vehicles are projected to use the 294-mile Tollway system. On an average day, more than 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

“With construction taking place throughout the Tollway system, it’s vitally important for drivers entering work zones to slow down and eliminate any distractions so they can focus on safety,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. “Work zone safety is everyone’s responsibility. The actions drivers take when traveling through work zones can prevent accidents and save lives.”

The speed limit in work zones is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even when workers are not present. Drivers should be prepared for sudden stops, changing traffic patterns, rough surfaces, uneven pavement and slower speeds when entering a work zone. Fines for speeding in work zones are \$375 for first-time offenders and \$1,000 for a second offense. The penalty for hitting a worker is a fine of up to \$10,000 and 14 years in prison.

### **Holiday Work Zones**

To accommodate holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Tuesday, July 3, through 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 5. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule, but this work will not impact traffic. All work is weather dependent.

### **Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80)**

- On I-294, southbound traffic between Grand Avenue and Franklin Street near Schiller Park is shifted.
- At 159<sup>th</sup> Street, traffic is shifted right in both directions. In addition, the ramps carrying traffic from eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street to northbound I-294 and from southbound I-294 to eastbound 159<sup>th</sup> Street are closed with detours posted.

### **Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)**

- Between I-290 and York Road, traffic is shifted in both directions. Westbound drivers must travel in the right lane on I-88 to access the cash side of the York Road Toll Plaza as well as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street exit ramp.
- Between Illinois Route 56 and Illinois Route 251, traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction in segments.

- At Annie Glidden Road, the ramp carrying traffic to eastbound I-88 from Annie Glidden Road is closed with a detour posted.

### **Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355)**

- Between Butterfield Road and Army Trail Road, traffic is shifted to the right in both directions.

### **Safe Phone Zones**

The Illinois Tollway urges drivers to curb distracted driving by using “Safe Phone Zones” sponsored by GEICO. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting and driving is one of the most dangerous forms of distracted driving. As part of the solution, through a sponsorship with GEICO, iStar Financial Inc. and the Illinois Tollway have designated six oases facilities on the Tollway system as Safe Phone Zones, where drivers can safely and conveniently use their mobile devices for calling, texting, posting and accessing apps.

### **Need H.E.L.P.? Dial \*999**

Tollway customers can call \*999 to get help from Tollway roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police District 15. Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks will be patrolling the Tollway system from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. throughout the Fourth of July holiday and the Tollway’s H.E.L.P. Truck Tracker is available online to help drivers who have requested roadside assistance to identify where trucks are along the road and when they are headed in their direction. H.E.L.P. trucks and motorist aid patrols during remaining hours are ready to help stranded customers change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck. District 15 troopers also patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Illinois State Police Urges Responsible Driving**

The Illinois State Police is urging drivers to be responsible when celebrating the Fourth of July holiday by driving sober or using a designated driver. Troopers will be increasing visibility and enforcement efforts, watching for anyone driving under the influence. Troopers will also focus on identifying traffic violations related to speeding, distracted driving and seatbelt use to help keep motorists safe.

### **Tollway Travel Tips**

The Tollway offers the following ways for drivers to get the latest travel information before they get on the road:

- [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) – Interactive Tollway Map for – construction information, Tollway Trip Calculator, live roadway images
- [travelmidwest.com](http://travelmidwest.com) – Real-time travel times
- [twitter.com](http://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 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.