



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 24, 2018**

## **EDENS SPUR TOLLWAY (I-94) RECONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN**

*Work will require long-term lane reductions, ramp and local road closures between Pflugsten Road and the Edens Expressway*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Lane reductions are scheduled this week to begin reconstruction of the Edens Spur Tollway (I-94). Work to reconstruct the Edens Spur, between Pflugsten Road and the Edens Expressway, includes removing existing pavement and replacing it with new, full-depth asphalt pavement. In addition, nine mainline bridges will be removed and replaced as part of this work.

Weather permitting, on Thursday, July 26, Edens Spur traffic will be reduced to a single lane in both directions between Pflugsten Road and Skokie Boulevard for work to prepare for a long-term traffic shift. The outside shoulder will remain open during this stage of work, which is scheduled to last for about three weeks.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures and construction work. Up to 57,000 vehicles use the Edens Spur daily.

As work begins to reconstruct the Edens Spur, all traffic will be shifted onto the westbound side of the roadway with one lane of traffic in both directions to accommodate reconstruction of the eastbound side. Traffic is expected to stay in this configuration through the end of the year.

Over the winter, eastbound traffic will be returned to the eastbound side, however traffic in both directions will remain reduced to a single lane to facilitate ongoing bridge work. In the spring, all traffic will be shifted onto the eastbound side and work to reconstruct the westbound lanes will begin. The mainline pavement work is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019.

The work is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and the Village of Northbrook, as well as local municipalities, fire and police departments.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Edens Spur Tollway repairs are 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 Edens Spur Improvement Project will involve removing and replacing all the existing mainline asphalt pavement and repairs to concrete pavement, including replacing or repairing mainline bridges. Additional work includes replacing the Pflugsten Road Bridge, repairing the Waukegan Road Bridge over the Edens Spur, constructing the barrier separated median with stormwater improvements and upgrading ITS and roadway lighting. All work is scheduled to be complete in 2020.

These repairs are necessary to extend the life of the roadway and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

### **Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring the Edens Spur Tollway (I-94) remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Work 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.

In addition, 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.

### **Getting Tollway Construction Information**

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- [Illinoistollway.com](http://Illinoistollway.com) – Explore Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [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 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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