**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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### O'HARE OASIS OVER-THE-ROAD PAVILION CLOSING TO MAKE WAY
### FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CENTRAL TRI-STATE (I-294) TOLLWAY
*Removal will allow construction of new lanes to reduce congestion and improve travel*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway today announced the O'Hare Oasis pavilion will close at midnight on Wednesday, September 5, so work can begin to remove the over-the-road structure as part of the $4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

The two adjoining fuel stations and convenience stores operated by 7-Eleven will remain open and continue to provide services for both northbound and southbound travelers along I-294.  In addition, the Tollway will be relocating the I-PASS Customer Service Center to the Hinsdale Oasis in September.

Removing the oasis will allow a fifth lane to be added in each direction as part of the Tollway project to reconstruct the Central Tri-State Tollway from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street. The Central Tri-State Tollway is being reconstructed to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs.

"While it is sad to close the chapter on a part of the agency's history, we're excited about what the future will bring," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Liz Gorman. "Removing the oasis will allow us to make tremendous roadway improvements that will benefit our customers by reducing travel times and improving service."

The closing date will give oasis tenants time to remove their equipment from inside the building before the Tollway begins utility work in September and preparation to remove the over-the-road structure. The $4.7 million removal contract, which also includes restoring the site and making parking lot improvements, is expected to be completed in 2019.

The Central Tri-State Tollway Project 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.

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.

**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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