



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2018

NEARLY 8 MILLION VEHICLES EXPECTED TO TRAVEL THE ILLINOIS TOLLWAY SYSTEM THIS LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway expects nearly 8 million vehicles to travel the Tollway system this Labor Day holiday from Friday, August 31, through Tuesday, September 4. The heaviest travel is expected on Friday, August 31, when nearly 2 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.

Holiday Work Zones

To accommodate holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Work may continue behind barriers with long-term lane closures remaining in place to keep construction projects on schedule. However, temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Friday, August 31, until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4. All work is weather dependent.

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

- On the Edens Spur, between Pfingsten Road and the Edens Expressway, traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction.
- Between Balmoral Avenue and the O'Hare Oasis traffic is shifted in both directions.
- On I-294, southbound traffic is shifted between Grand Avenue and Golf Road.
- On I-294, traffic is shifted in both directions at the Cermak, 82nd Street and 83rd Street toll plazas.
- At 159th Street Interchange the ramps carrying traffic from eastbound 159th Street to northbound I-294 and from southbound I-294 to eastbound 159th 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 22nd Street exit ramp.
- On the ramp connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound I-355 one lane is closed.
- Between Illinois Route 56 and Illinois Route 251, traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction in segments.

Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355)

- Between Army Trail Road and I-55, traffic is shifted in both directions.

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

Call *999 to get help from Tollway roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police District 15. Tollway motorist aid patrols stand 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. The Tollway's Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks will also be patrolling the Tollway system from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both Friday, August 31, and on Monday, September 3. District 15 troopers patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Avoid Distracted and Drowsy Driving

Using a hand-held phone and texting while driving is illegal in Illinois. Tollway customers can stop at any of the Safe Phone Zones sponsored by Geico located at Tollway oases to safely use their cellphones for calling, texting and accessing mobile apps. Drivers can also avoid tired driving by stopping at one of the seven Tollway oases to take a break, grab a snack and refuel.

Illinois State Police Urge Responsible Driving

The “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign began on August 17 and runs through September 3. Illinois State Police Troopers patrolling the Illinois Tollway will be enforcing Fatal Four violations in order to help reduce traffic fatalities and injuries with an additional emphasis on DUI offenses over the holiday weekend. Driving under the influence, speeding, distracted driving, and not wearing seat belts, the Fatal Four, are the four primary causes of fatal traffic crashes.

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 – Interactive Tollway Map for – construction information, Tollway Trip Calculator, live roadway images
- travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- 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.

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