



*Move Illinois:  
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 19, 2018**

## **CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT BETWEEN ROSEMONT AND FRANKLIN PARK NEARING WINTER CONFIGURATION**

*Shift scheduled to restore traffic to pre-construction configuration, Irving Park Road ramps reopening*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work to move traffic into its winter configuration on the northern section of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project between Balmoral Avenue in Rosemont and Wolf Road in Franklin Park is scheduled to begin with a final traffic shift this week. Once the shift is complete, the ramps connecting Irving Park Road to northbound I-294 will also reopen.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the traffic shift. The temporary lane closures and traffic shifts are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic.

Weather permitting, on Monday, November 19, traffic between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road is scheduled to be reduced to a single lane in both directions beginning at 10 p.m. During this time delays are expected. By 6 a.m. on Tuesday, November 20, all lanes will be reopened and shifted back into their pre-construction configuration.

The ramps connecting Irving Park Road to northbound I-294 in Schiller Park, which have been closed since July, are scheduled to reopen the evening of Tuesday, November 20.

While major advance work is complete, some shoulders will remain closed and off-peak mainline and local lane closures will be needed to wrap up median, signage and roadway lighting work. No additional traffic shifts or long-term lane reductions will be scheduled until construction on the project resumes in 2019.

Work on the Central Tri-State began earlier this year to repair, resurface and widen I-294 to five lanes between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road in Franklin Park, as well as to reconstruct barrier walls, medians and shoulders in this area.

Construction in this area was coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Chicago Department of Aviation, Village of Schiller Park, Village of Rosemont and Village of Franklin Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

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. This work 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.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project 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) 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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