



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2019

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON NEW FULL-ACCESS ILLINOIS ROUTE 23 INTERCHANGE ON THE JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90)

*\$33.4 million interchange scheduled to be complete by end of 2019
will be the first interstate connection in McHenry County*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway has started construction on the \$33.4 million Illinois Route 23 Interchange Project on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Marengo this week. The project will create a new, full-access interchange with local road improvements, including construction of roundabouts.

The Illinois Route 23 Interchange will be the first interstate connection in McHenry County. The Tollway is building four ramps as part of a partial cloverleaf interchange on the east side of Illinois Route 23 that will provide full access between Illinois Route 23 and I-90. The interchange is scheduled to be complete this fall.

“The new full tollway access at I-90 and Route 23 will bring significant development opportunities to the city of Marengo, and we are prepared and ready to assist any party interested in developing or locating at this new exchange,” said Marengo Mayor John Koziol. “I’d like to thank the Tollway, IDOT and McHenry County for their continued support of this project.”

Weather permitting, beginning Monday, March 25, traffic on I-90 in both directions is scheduled to shift to the inside lanes to provide a work zone for ramp pavement construction. Eastbound lanes are scheduled to shift first, followed by westbound lanes. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration for two months.

Electronic message signs and construction signage have been put in place in advance to alert drivers. The new traffic pattern is necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic during interchange construction.

Once work on I-90 is done, traffic on Illinois Route 23 is scheduled to be reduced and shifted. At times during the project, traffic on Illinois Route 23 may be reduced to one lane during off-peak hours for construction. At those times, traffic will be maintained in both directions with flaggers. In addition, on Harmony Road, a closure and detour between Illinois Route 23 and Maple Street will also be needed to complete work on the project.

The Illinois Route 23 Interchange is being designed with roundabouts or traffic circles to provide efficient and safe traffic flow for the new interchange ramp connections with Illinois Route 23. With roundabouts, traffic is permitted to flow in only one direction around a central island, and priority is given to traffic already traveling in the circle. Traffic projections estimate the new interchange will serve a total of about 4,800 vehicles daily.

As part of the project, a portion of Illinois Route 23 will be widened and reconstructed between Coon Creek Road and Harmony Road. The Illinois Route 23 Bridge carrying traffic over I-90 was rebuilt in 2017 in anticipation of the new interchange.

In addition, the project will also provide for local road improvements including improving a portion of Harmony Road and rebuilding the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and Harmony Road to include a roundabout with a pedestrian crossing with 10-foot wide sidewalks to ensure safe pedestrian crossings.

The Illinois Route 23 Interchange Project will create opportunity for continued economic development along Illinois Route 23 and will open up access between the Tollway and the northwest suburbs. This will be the first direct interstate connection to I-90 constructed in McHenry County.

The Illinois Route 23 Interchange Project is funded in part by Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Consistent with the Tollway's Interchange and Roadway Cost-Sharing Policy requiring local communities to cover the remaining cost of interchange improvements, the local share will be split: IDOT will contribute approximately 25 percent and the remainder will be funded by Marengo and McHenry County.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Illinois Route 23 Interchange 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.



Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) remains safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

A 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect on I-90 and on Illinois Route 23 throughout the reconstruction project.

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.

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 seven 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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