



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2019

OVERNIGHT LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MARCH FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) SIGNAGE WORK

Nightly, temporary full closures planned for sign truss removal and construction in March, April

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin next week on the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between the O’Hare Oasis and Balmoral Avenue, as well as on Balmoral Avenue for sign truss removal and construction.

Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The temporary closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate the removal and placement of the sign structures over the roadway.

Weather permitting, beginning the week of March 25 and continuing into April, intermittent, full closures of I-294 in both directions, each lasting 15 minutes, will be scheduled during weeknights between midnight and 4 a.m. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane in each direction each night in advance of the full closures. Closures will not be scheduled every night, but on an as-needed basis depending on weather. The work is expected to take up to 10 evenings over the course of several weeks.

In addition, during the week of March 25, traffic on westbound Balmoral Avenue is scheduled to be reduced to a single lane overnight beginning at 8 p.m. with lanes reopening by 4 a.m. the following morning in order to remove a bridge mounted sign.

Sign truss work will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. The work involves removing four existing sign structures and constructing four new ones that are needed to accommodate the widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway.

Work on the Central Tri-State began in 2018 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.

Maps, construction and detour 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.

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.

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.

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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 seven years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor and 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 Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project and planning for emerging projects, including reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

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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