



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2019

WEEKEND LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR MILE LONG BRIDGE REPAIRS ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Overnight lane reductions planned for bridge pavement repairs

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Lane closures are scheduled this weekend in both directions on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) for pavement repairs on the Mile Long Bridge. Delays are expected.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance. The lane closures are necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates pavement patching and maintains access for traffic. All work is weather dependent.

On Friday, April 26, lane closures on northbound I-294 are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with traffic reduced to a single lane by 11 p.m. for overnight pavement patching work that will continue into the morning of Saturday, April 27, with all northbound lanes scheduled to reopen by 7 a.m.

In addition, lane closures are scheduled to begin on southbound I-294 by 8 p.m. on Friday, April 26, reducing traffic to two lanes. Southbound work is expected to be complete by midnight with all lanes reopening at that time.

Additional overnight weekend lane closures will be scheduled in early May to complete pavement patching and repair work in the southbound lanes. Repairs on the Mile Long Bridge will continue in 2019 and beyond on an as-needed basis.

The Mile Long Bridge Project is scheduled to begin in 2019 and will completely rebuild the structure by 2023. The project includes construction of two new bridge structures that will increase capacity from four lanes to five lanes in both directions as part of the Central Tri-State Project. In addition, the inside shoulders will be built to serve as flex lanes, which can be used for a variety of safety-related needs. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel on the Mile Long Bridge daily. The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Closures and Mile Long Bridge repairs are being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Cook County, along with local municipalities and police and fire departments.

Construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project is available in the "Projects by Roadway" section in the Explore Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

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.

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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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