



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2019

**LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK
FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) BRIDGE REPAIRS**
Bridge repair work in Elmhurst and Justice scheduled to begin this week

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – As part of the Illinois Tollway’s Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, repairs are scheduled this construction season on several mainline bridges carrying I-294 over local roads, interstates and railroads. Work at all locations includes bridge deck patching, expansion joint repairs and drainage system cleaning.

Beginning the week of May 20, daily lane closures will be scheduled on 87th Avenue and Roberts Road in Justice under the Tri-State Tollway to prepare for repair work on the bridges carrying I-294 over the local roads beginning in May. Reductions on Butterfield Road in Elmhurst are scheduled to begin a week later. The closures will be scheduled for weekdays only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All work is weather dependent.

Construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures. The closures are necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates the construction and traffic.

Once the advance work is complete, nightly lane closures on I-294 will be scheduled reducing Tollway traffic to two lanes for the mainline bridge repair work. Construction will take place during off-peak hours to reduce the impact on daily commuters. Work is scheduled to be complete this fall.

Bridge work is also scheduled at the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) this summer. That work will require about a week’s worth of closures on the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to westbound I-290. A detour will be posted.

The bridge repairs are being coordinated with the local communities, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian National Railroad and Metra, DuPage County, Cook County and local fire and police departments

In 2019, the Illinois Tollway is working on I-294 bridges at locations including bridges over Butterfield Road, 87th Avenue and Roberts Road, I-88, I-290, Flagg Creek, Union Pacific Railroad and Canadian National Railroad.

The Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) will be rebuilt and widened between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street to provide congestion relief, reconstruct old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. Work on the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Project 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 bridges, barrier walls, medians and shoulders throughout the corridor in advance of roadway improvements.

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.

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Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads remain 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 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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