



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 13, 2019

RAMP LANES SCHEDULED TO REOPEN WITH NEW TRAFFIC SHIFT AT REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88)/TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) INTERCHANGE

Ramp reconstruction, bridge rehabilitation and noisewall work scheduled to continue through fall

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – A new traffic shift is scheduled to be put in place this week for work to reconstruct the two ramps connecting the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294). The new traffic pattern will provide for two lanes of traffic with a second lane on the ramps connecting eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 and northbound I-294 to westbound I-88.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the new traffic pattern changes. All work is weather dependent.

"The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits."

Overnight tonight, Thursday, June 13, one lane of traffic on both ramps is scheduled to be shifted to the left onto temporary pavement to allow for a work zone on the right. Overnight Friday, June 14, a second lane will be reopened on each ramp to provide two lanes for traffic. Additional traffic shifts will be needed later this year to complete the work.

Ramp improvements will include pavement reconstruction, bridge rehabilitation, construction of noisewalls, guardrail and cable median work, as well as drainage, landscaping, roadway lighting and signage work. The work is scheduled to be complete this year.

Pavement reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation will improve the overall driving experience and extend the life of the ramps. More than 23,730 vehicles use the ramp connecting eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 and more than 24,920 vehicles use the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to westbound I-88.

Construction is being coordinated with the Village of Oak Brook, as well as local fire and police departments. The improvements are funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Maps and construction information about the I-88 Roadway Reconstruction Project is available on the Tollway's website at Illinoistollway.com via the Interactive Tollway map and under "Projects Overview" in the Projects section.

Work Zone Safety

A 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect on I-88, including on both ramps connecting I-88 and I-294, 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.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- <u>Illinoistollway.com</u> Explore Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- <u>Daily construction alerts</u> Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- <u>Twitter.com</u> Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.

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.