



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION RESUMES TO COMPLETE THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Interchange scheduled to be complete by end of 2022 providing access to and from Chicago

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Work on the second phase of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange Project is scheduled to begin next week. The project will complete construction of the interchange connecting I-294 to I-57. The first phase opened in 2014.

This final phase of construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022 and will include roadway improvements on I-57 and new ramps providing access to and from Chicago, improving regional mobility.

“The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation, is leading construction to complete this new interchange connection – creating a vital connection between two major interstates serving the Chicago Southland,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “The Illinois Tollway understands safety is just as important as access for drivers who use the Tollway to reach work and home, and we thank them in advance for their patience as we restart this project.”

Beginning the week of June 24 on I-57, shoulder closures are scheduled to begin along with off-peak lane closures for drainage work. Once that work is complete, traffic shifts will be put in place for median construction.

On I-294, later this summer shoulder closures will be scheduled at the interchange and lane reductions will be put in place on the ramp carrying southbound I-294 to southbound I-57 for construction of the future ramp connecting southbound I-294 to northbound I-57.

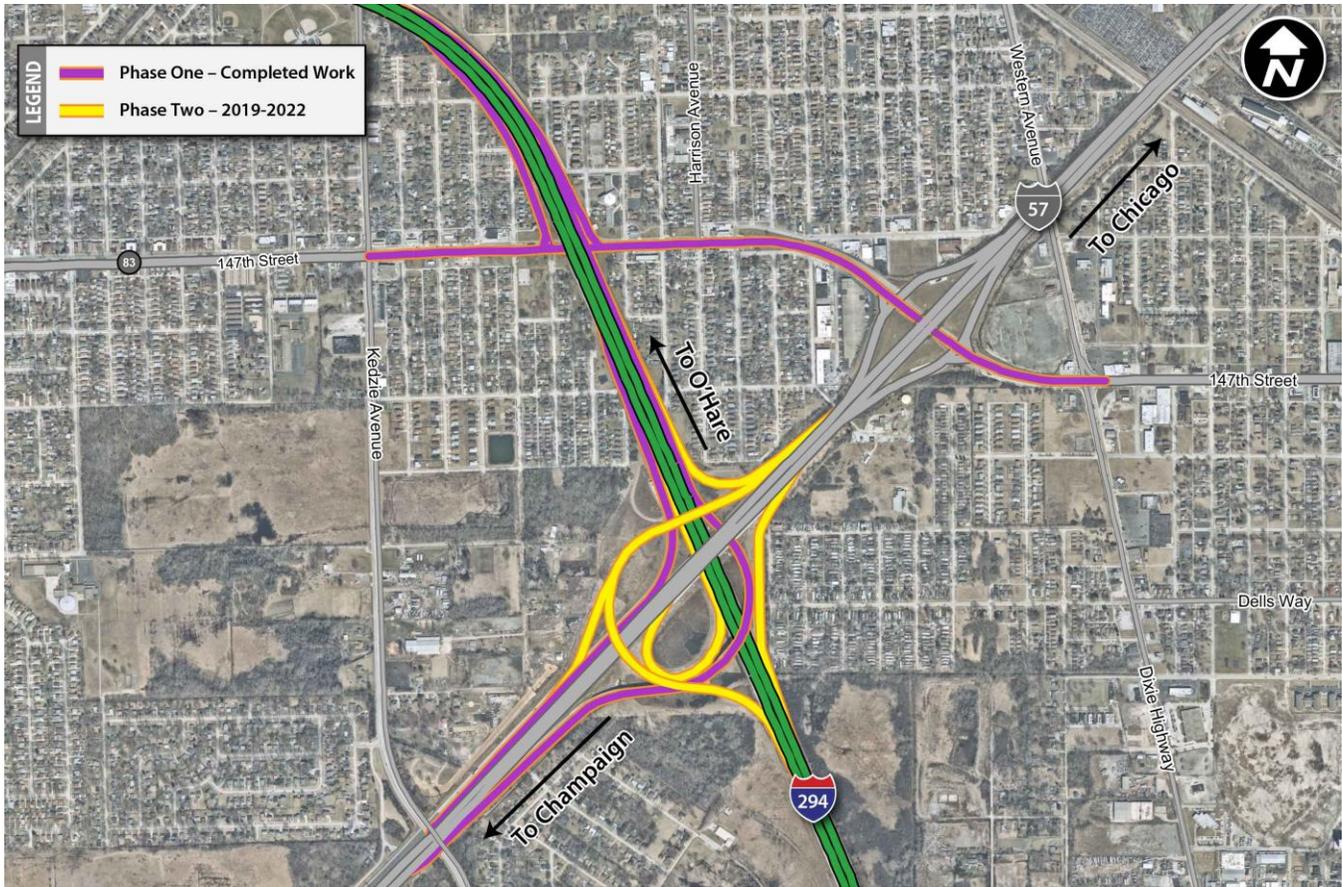
Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the new traffic pattern changes. All work is weather dependent.

Phase two of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project will build four new ramps to connect southbound I-57 to I-294 and 294 to northbound I-57. As part of this work, the I-57 median will be reconstructed and the I-57 mainline will be widened. This work includes earth excavation, drainage improvements, erosion and sediment control, retaining wall and bridge construction.

The new interchange is improving travel by providing customers with completed access between the two interstates. For the first time, the new I-294/I-57 Interchange provides motorists with access between I-294 and I-57, including a new interchange at 147th Street.

The complete interchange will reduce congestion on local routes, enhance economic development and improve regional mobility. The all-electronic interstate-to-interstate connection better serves commuters and freight operators while opening access for local communities.

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Maps, construction and detour information about the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) I-57 Interchange Project is available on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com via the Interactive Tollway Map and in the Explore Projects section.

The \$719 million I-294/I-57 Interchange Project is funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Work Zone 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. On I-57, work zone speed limits will also be 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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