



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 3, 2019**

**NEW TRAFFIC SHIFT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON I-57 FOR  
TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE PROJECT**  
*Southbound traffic on I-57 shifting for median reconstruction work*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work to shift southbound traffic on I-57 at the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is scheduled to begin this week as part of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project – Phase 2. Three lanes of traffic will remain open, as will the 147<sup>th</sup> Street ramps.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The new traffic pattern is necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic during median reconstruction.

“The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring the roadway remains safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of our overall commitment to roadway safety,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We ask drivers to be attentive in work zones by watching for changing traffic patterns and using caution, especially when workers are present.”

During the week of September 3, nightly lane closures will be needed on southbound I-57 to prepare for the traffic shift so work can begin for drainage improvements and median construction. All work is weather dependent.

Beginning at 9 p.m. on Friday, September 6, southbound shoulders are scheduled to close and traffic will be shifted to the right to provide a work zone. Traffic will be shifted for about 1.5 miles north of I-294. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of the year.

This work is part of the second phase of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project, which is building 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.

Maps and construction information about the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) I-57 Interchange Project is available on the Tollway’s website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) via the Interactive Tollway Map and in the 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*.

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 147<sup>th</sup> 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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### **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 55 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 \$250. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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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