



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 20, 2019**

## **CLOSURES SCHEDULED AT THE BALMORAL AVENUE INTERCHANGE ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**

*Extended closure needed for bridge and ramp pavement work, delays are expected*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Extended lane closures on Balmoral Avenue and on the ramp connecting the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to Balmoral Avenue are scheduled to begin next week for bridge and ramp pavement repairs. Drivers in the area are urged to slow down and obey posted work zone speed limits and to expect delays.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance of the lane closures. Lane closures are necessary to provide a work zone to safely accommodate bridge deck maintenance and repair work.

“The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement repairs,” 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.”

Weather permitting, beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Monday, September 23, the right lane on westbound Balmoral Avenue is scheduled to close to traffic through early October. Once these repairs are completed, the left lane on eastbound Balmoral Avenue and the inside left-turn lane on the westbound side are scheduled to close until the end of October.

In addition, beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Monday, September 23, and continuing through the end of October, one left-turn lane on the ramp carrying northbound I-294 traffic to westbound Balmoral Avenue will be closed to prevent drivers from turning into the work zone.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Rosemont, as well as local fire and police departments.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

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

### **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.

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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 \$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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