



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 31, 2019**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR HALLOWEEN RUSH HOUR SNOWFALL**

*Drivers reminded to reduce speed, give extra room to snowplows and stopped vehicles along the road*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway has deployed its full fleet of 196 snowplows in response to snow that is expected to continue falling throughout Thursday, possibly affecting drivers during their morning commutes and daytime travels. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency's systemwide response.

"We're dedicated to protecting our customers by rapidly clearing snow and ice from our roads so drivers can continue to travel safely and by quickly assisting any customers whose vehicles become disabled along our system," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "Drivers need to help us meet these challenges by slowing down during and increasing their distance from the vehicles around them, especially snowplows and emergency vehicles."

Any drivers who need assistance while traveling on the Tollway system should dial \*999 from a cellphone for assistance from Illinois State Police District 15. Drivers should note the roadway and direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.

The Tollway and other Illinois transportation and safety agencies also remind drivers to obey the Move Over Law by slowing down and changing lanes safely when they see any stopped vehicle with flashing emergency or hazard lights. Drivers can visit [www.GiveThemDistance.com](http://www.GiveThemDistance.com) for more information on this safe-driving initiative.

To respond to this weather event, the Illinois Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of snow and ice.

During heavy snowfall, snowplows often work in tandem to remove as much ice, slush and snow as possible from all lanes at once. When it is safe to pass, the plows spread out and allow traffic to flow around them.

### **Illinois Tollway Keeps Drivers Informed**

In addition to working to keep roads free of snow and ice, the Illinois Tollway provides drivers with information to help them reach their destinations safely during winter weather events.

The Illinois Tollway's Traffic and Incident Management System (TIMS) provides real-time travel times and roadway conditions on over-the-road electronic message signs throughout the Tollway.

Real-time roadway incident information including the type of incident, location and impact on traffic is also available on the Tollway's website or via Twitter to assist drivers in planning their trips. Drivers can sign up for Tollway Trip Tweets at [twitter.com](https://twitter.com) or from the Tollway's website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com). Tweeters can follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them.

The five are:

[@94\\_294 Tollway](#), [@I\\_90 Tollway](#), [@I\\_88 Tollway](#), [@I\\_355 Tollway](#) and [@IL\\_390 Tollway](#).

Before traveling, customers can access live camera feeds that offer “bird’s-eye” views from more than 20 different locations along the Tollway system. The camera feeds are easily accessible on the “Interactive Tollway Map” at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

### **Tollway Travel Tips**

The Tollway offers the following tips for winter weather events:

- Slow down and leave enough time to reach your destination.
- Do not make sudden lane changes and always use your turn signal.
- Don't follow too closely and increase your intervals between vehicles.
- Remember to always wear your safety belt and ensure children under the age of 8 are securely restrained in child safety seats.
- [Drop It and Drive](#). Don't text or use a hand-held cellphone while driving. Both are illegal.

### **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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