



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RAMPS, BRIDGE TO REOPEN AT 159TH STREET INTERCHANGE ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) IN MARKHAM

Interchange improvements provide for improved travel for drivers

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is nearing completion of the 159th Street Interchange Project on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Markham and will reopen ramps and restore bridge traffic this week.

“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 for their patience throughout this construction project,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “Closing lanes and shifting traffic allowed us to safely complete this work and deliver improvements that will benefit the community and our customers.”

Weather permitting, on Thursday, July 11, traffic on the 159th Street Bridge over I-294 will be returned to its normal configuration and the ramps carrying traffic from westbound 159th Street to southbound I-294 and from northbound I-294 to westbound 159th Street are also scheduled to reopen.

As the Tollway works to wrap up the two-year construction project, shoulder closures on I-294 and lane reductions on the collector-distributor lanes for the ramps will continue through the end of the month as remaining work on this contract which includes signing, striping, electrical work, guardrail installation grading and landscaping is completed.

The 159th Street Interchange Project is extending the life of the interchange, increasing traffic capacity and providing safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. More than 13,000 vehicles use this interchange daily.

The Illinois Tollway began work at the 159th Street Interchange in 2018 to coordinate with future local improvements planned for 159th Street in coordination with coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Cook County. The project included rebuilding the existing 159th Street Bridge and reconstructing four ramps at the 159th Street Interchange. The project also provides for roadway lighting and drainage improvements, as well as landscaping work and the addition of sidewalks to improve pedestrian access in the area.

Work Zone Safety

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.

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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.

Visit the Tollway's Roadway Safety page at illinoistollway.com.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

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

- illinoistollway.com – Explore Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/illinoistollway) – 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* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for emerging projects.

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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