



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2020

PFINGSTEN ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE TO BEGIN IN MARCH FOR RECONSTRUCTION AS PART OF THE EDENS SPUR TOLLWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Bridge is scheduled to be closed for up to six months; detour will be posted

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway will begin work the week of March 9 to remove and rebuild the Pfingsten Road Bridge as part of the Edens Spur Tollway (I-94) Improvement Project. To accommodate the work, the bridge is scheduled to be closed to traffic with a posted detour for six months.

Full closure and a traffic detour is necessary because the Pfingsten Road Bridge is too narrow to safely accommodate traffic and a construction work zone and will help reduce the duration of the construction project. Up to 15,600 vehicles use the bridge carrying traffic over the Edens Spur Tollway daily. Delays are expected.

“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,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “Closing the bridge allows us to safely complete this work in less time and minimize the inconvenience to customers.”

Beginning the week of March 9, overnight lane closures will be scheduled on the westbound Edens Spur for advance work to prepare a work zone for the bridge reconstruction, including closure of one open road tolling lane at the Waukegan Toll Plaza. The lane will remain closed during bridge construction.

The full closure of the Pfingsten Road Bridge is scheduled to begin the week of March 16 and a posted detour will route traffic via Dundee Road, Waukegan Road and Lake Cook Road.

Pfingsten Road will be closed to traffic between Lake Cook Road and Maria Avenue/Underwriters Laboratories (UL) entrance. Access to local businesses and side streets along Pfingsten Road will remain open during bridge construction.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance of construction, along with detour signage while the bridge closure is in place.



Reconstruction of the Pfungsten Road Bridge is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. When complete, the new bridge will feature a wider bridge deck to accommodate vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists traveling over the Edens Spur Tollway (I-94). To improve safety for pedestrian and bicycle access, the wider bridge will provide space for construction of a wider sidewalk on the northbound side of the bridge and a new barrier-separated path on the southbound side of the bridge to tie into a future multi-use path.

In addition, as part of the project, a new water main will be constructed under the Edens Spur at Pfungsten Road to provide a future connection between the Villages of Deerfield and Northbrook.

The \$109 million Edens Spur Improvement Project is removing and replacing all existing mainline asphalt pavement and replacing or repairing mainline bridges. Additional work includes replacing the Pfungsten Road Bridge, repairing the Waukegan Road Bridge over the Edens Spur, constructing the barrier separated median with stormwater improvements and upgrading ITS and roadway lighting. All work is scheduled to be complete in 2020.

Originally constructed in 1958, the Edens Spur consists of two lanes in each direction with 4-foot wide inside shoulders and 11-foot wide outside shoulders and an open grass median. Up to 57,000 vehicles use the Edens Spur daily.

These repairs are necessary to extend the life of the roadway and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Maps and construction about the Edens Spur Tollway repairs are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

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-94, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is 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 and can include up to a \$25,000 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 eight 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.

###