



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 16, 2020**

## **CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK FOR CONTINUING WORK ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT**

*Shoulder closures and overnight lane reductions scheduled between Rosemont and Franklin Park*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Lane closures and traffic shifts are scheduled to begin in March as work resumes on the Central Tri-State between Balmoral Avenue in Rosemont and Wolf Road in Franklin Park as part of the Illinois Tollway’s \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

“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.”

Weather permitting, during the week of March 16, the inside shoulders in both directions on I-294 between Schiller Park and Franklin Park will be closed for repair work scheduled to last through late March. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures.

In addition, during the week of March 16, intermittent, full roadway closures, each lasting 15 minutes, are scheduled to take place between midnight and 4 a.m. for temporary roadway lighting work.

Between O’Hare Oasis and Wolf Road in Franklin Park — Traffic in both directions will be shifted to the inside lanes for roadway work. The Tollway will maintain four lanes of traffic in both directions by shifting traffic to safely accommodate drivers and provide for work zones during construction. Additional lane closures will be scheduled as needed during overnight and off-peak hours for construction. In addition, off-peak closures will be needed on Mannheim Road for bridge work.

Between Lawrence Avenue and the O’Hare Oasis — Work is scheduled to resume on I-294 and traffic shifts will be put in place with five lanes of traffic remaining open in most areas. However southbound traffic between Irving Park and Lawrence Avenue will be reduced to four lanes. Work includes rebuilding the inside lanes, shoulder and median.

Work on the Central Tri-State began in 2018 to repair, resurface and widen I-294 to five lanes between Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road in Franklin Park, as well as to reconstruct barrier walls, medians and shoulders in this area.

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) in the Projects section.

Construction in this area was coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Chicago Department of Aviation, Village of Schiller Park, Village of Rosemont and Village of Franklin Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

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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.

### **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.

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 with 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 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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