



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 25, 2020**

## **LANE REDUCTIONS SCHEDULED ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) FOR BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY BRIDGE PROJECT**

*Long-term lane closure needed through April for bridge center pier work*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Northbound traffic on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Ogden Avenue near Hinsdale and Western Springs is scheduled to be reduced from four to three lanes beginning this week through April for work to rebuild the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge over the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

“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.”

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures. Up-to-date information regarding additional lane closures will also be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alerts](#). All work is weather dependent.

On Wednesday, March 25, on southbound I-294, overnight lane closures will be scheduled to relocate construction equipment to the roadway median for bridge construction. This will include 15-minute, full lane closures between midnight and 5 a.m. on Thursday, March 26.

In addition, on northbound I-294, a lane closure will be put in place closing the left lane and reducing traffic from four to three lanes by 5 a.m. on Thursday, March 26. Traffic is scheduled to stay in this configuration through April.

Additional lane closures will be scheduled in both directions as needed.

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the BNSF Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad over I-294 between Hinsdale and Western Springs, to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of the Tollway underneath. The new fourth track on the bridge will be used for maintenance purposes by BNSF.

The BNSF Railway Bridge Project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with local municipalities, park districts, as well as police and fire departments.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction information about the BNSF Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway’s website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Work Zone Safety**

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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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