



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

**WORK SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK FOR SEWER RELOCATION WORK
FOR THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT**

*Shoulder closures and work zone speed limits will be put in place
on I-294 between I-55 and Ogden Avenue*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin a multi-year project this week to relocate existing Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District sewer lines adjacent to the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in preparation for mainline roadway reconstruction and widening.

Weather permitting, during the week of April 27, off-peak lane and shoulder closures will be put in place in various locations on I-294 between I-55 and Ogden Avenue for pavement work to prepare for long-term shoulder closures this summer. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to construction and work zone speed limits.

“The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits.”

To accommodate the sanitary sewer relocation, additional lane and shoulder closures will be scheduled this summer on the mainline, as well as on auxiliary lanes and ramps connecting to the Hinsdale Oasis. Access to the oasis will be maintained throughout construction.

The Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District maintains 42-inch, 48-inch and 60-inch sanitary sewer lines adjacent to and underneath I-294 in the area between I-55 and Ogden Avenue. Relocation of these sewer lines is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021, before work to rebuild and widen the Tollway can begin in this area.

Replacement sanitary sewer lines will be installed on the west side of I-294 from I-55 to Plainfield Road and from north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge to Ogden Avenue. On the east side of I-294, sewer work is planned from Plainfield Road to Hinsdale Oasis. In addition, sewer lines underneath the Tollway will be replaced at several locations including at the ramp from southbound I-294 to I-55, north of Plainfield Road, north of 47th Street and north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge.

In addition, as part of this work, retaining walls, noisewalls and fencing will be removed for construction and replaced once work on the sewer is complete.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway’s website illinoistollway.com.

Construction in this area was coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Village of Burr Ridge, Village of Hinsdale, Indian Head Park and Village of Western Springs, as well as local fire and police departments.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th 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 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.

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