



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BEGINS ADVANCE WORK TO PREPARE FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) REBUILDING AND WIDENING BETWEEN I-55 AND 95th STREET

Bridge reconstruction and local road and ramp improvements scheduled at Archer Avenue

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Advance work is scheduled to begin this week as the Illinois Tollway prepares for roadway reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between I-55 and 95th Street. Construction in this section is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

“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 local residents and our customers, and we ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits.”

Work will begin this week with lane closures and traffic shifts on I-294, ramps and local roads, including Archer Avenue, 79th Street, LaGrange Road, in preparation for removal and reconstruction of four bridges associated with the Archer Avenue Interchange. In addition, shoulder closures and traffic shifts are scheduled to begin in June on I-294 between I-55 and 75th Street for earthwork and pavement work to prepared for roadway reconstruction.

Weather permitting, beginning the week of May 18, traffic will be shifted on several ramps in the area, and lane closures on local roads will include:

- 79th Street between Oak Grove Avenue and Archer Avenue will be reduced to one lane in both directions.
- Westbound Archer Avenue will be reduced to one lane between Oak Grove Avenue and westbound 79th Street ramp.
- Single lane closures will be put in place on eastbound Archer Avenue at LaGrange Road and on the ramp from eastbound Archer Avenue to 79th Street.
- Temporary daily lane closures will be scheduled as needed on southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294.

Also beginning the week of May 18, on I-294, outside shoulders, in both directions, will be closed and traffic will be shifted to the right with reduced lane widths. The same number of lanes will be maintained on I-294.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures and traffic shifts. *Information regarding daily lane closures and traffic shifts will be available in the Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#).*

To accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294, the Illinois Tollway will reconstruct the eastbound and westbound Archer Avenue Bridges over I-294, the eastbound Archer Avenue Bridge over 79th Street and the bridge carrying westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294. Bridge reconstruction is scheduled to complete by the end of 2021.

Ramp and local road improvements on Archer Avenue and 79th Street will also be included as part of the construction. Work also includes drainage and lighting improvements and landscaping.

Bridges, ramps and local roads will remain open during removal and reconstruction with traffic shifts and lane reductions, however temporary closures and detours will be scheduled as needed to safely accommodate construction work.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Village of Justice and Village of Willow 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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