



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2020

*****UPDATED*****

CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) LANE REDUCTIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEKEND

Closures needed for bridge repairs on the I-294 bridge over Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Lane reductions and a traffic shift are scheduled to begin this weekend on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) for bridge repair work over the Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park as part of the Illinois Tollway’s Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to construction work zones, lane reductions and traffic shifts throughout June for the repairs. The lane reductions are needed to safely accommodate drivers and provide for work zones during construction. All work is weather dependent.

On Friday, June 12, on northbound I-294 between Irving Park Road and Balmoral Avenue, traffic is scheduled to shift to the outside lanes and be reduced from five lanes to four lanes.

To prepare for the new traffic pattern, one lane is scheduled to close at 9 p.m. with a second lane closing at 10 p.m. and a third closing after midnight to accommodate pavement striping. Once striping is complete, traffic will be shifted with four lanes open by 7 a.m. on Saturday June 13.

Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration for about a month and additional lane closures will be scheduled as needed during overnight and off-peak hours for construction.

“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.”

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.

Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project

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Work on the northern section of the Central Tri-State Project 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.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Chicago Department of Aviation, Canadian National Railway, Village of Schiller Park, Village of Rosemont and Village of Franklin Park, 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.

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

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 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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