



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW TRAFFIC SHIFT SCHEDULED ON I-57 FOR TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Northbound traffic on I-57 shifting to provide work zone for roadway and bridge construction

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to shift northbound traffic on I-57 at the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) this week for roadway and bridge construction as part of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project – Phase 2.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The new traffic pattern is necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic during construction with three lanes of traffic open in both directions on I-57, as well as the ramps at 147th Street. All work is weather dependent.

“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.”

Overnight Wednesday, June 17, lane closures will be scheduled on northbound I-57 to prepare to shift northbound traffic between I-294 and the CSX Railroad.

On Thursday, June 18, beginning at 8 p.m. shoulder closures on northbound I-57 will be put in place and up to two lanes will be closed at a time to shift traffic to the left to accommodate the new work zone.

In addition, following the traffic shift, three additional week-night lane closures will be scheduled to complete temporary pavement marking and barrier wall work. During these closures, the ramps connecting northbound I-57 and 147th Street will be closed on alternating nights. No detours will be posted.

Northbound I-57 traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of the year. Currently southbound I-57 traffic between I-294 and the CSX Railroad Bridge is shifted to the right through fall.

With traffic shifts in place, the Illinois Tollway is beginning construction to widen the I-57 bridges over 149th Street and Dixie Highway/Western Avenue, as well as constructing a new collector-distributor roadway with bridges over 147th Street.

This work is part of the second phase of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project, which is building four new ramps to connect southbound I-57 to I-294 and 294 to northbound I-57. As part of this work, the I-57 median will be reconstructed and the I-57 mainline will be widened. This work also includes drainage improvements, erosion and sediment control, retaining wall and bridge construction.

Maps and construction information about the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) I-57 Interchange Project is available on the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

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The \$719 million I-294/I-57 Interchange Project is funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

The new interchange is improving travel by providing customers with completed access between the two interstates. For the first time, the new I-294/I-57 Interchange provides motorists with access between I-294 and I-57, including a new interchange at 147th Street. The complete interchange will reduce congestion on local routes, enhance economic development and improve regional mobility. The all-electronic interstate-to-interstate connection better serves commuters and freight operators while opening access for local communities.

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 55 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season. On I-57, work zone speed limits will also be 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 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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