



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2020

EXTENDED RAMP CLOSURE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT THE ARCHER AVENUE INTERCHANGE ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Closure needed for pavement work, detour will be posted

DOWNSERS GROVE, IL – An extended ramp closure with detour on the ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is scheduled to begin next week and continue through the end of the year for ramp and roadway pavement work.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the ramp closure and detour. All work is weather dependent. The closure is necessary because there is not enough room on the ramp to safely provide a work zone and accommodate traffic.

“The Illinois Tollway prioritizes the safety of both drivers and workers when planning for roadway construction,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “While roadwork detours are inconvenient for drivers, the closures are necessary to provide a safe work zone for construction workers and completion of the repair work.”

Beginning the week of June 29, the ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to southbound I-294 is scheduled to close with a posted detour. The detour will direct traffic to continue east to Oak Grove Avenue and then route traffic via westbound Archer Avenue to the ramp onto LaGrange Road which provides access to southbound I-294.



The ramp closure and detour will accommodate drainage work along with the start of roadway improvements on Archer Avenue and pavement work on the ramp.

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. 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.

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

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, 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 reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

About the Illinois Tollway

Central Tri-State Tollway Reconstruction Project - page 3

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.

#