

# **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS**

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 30, 2020

#### ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Drivers returning to the roads are reminded to be prepared and put safety first

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL –** With Illinois now in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, the Illinois Tollway is prepared for Fourth of July travel and is encouraging drivers getting back on the road over the holiday weekend to be prepared and put safety first.

"Following the guidance and advisories provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health and Governor JB Pritzker, we are fully focused on protecting the health and safety of the public," said Executive Director José Alvarez. "At our toll plazas, oases and in our construction work zones systemwide, our operations put our customers' needs first."

### Prepare for construction work zones

With summer construction in full swing, remember to stay focused, slow down and watch for changes in traffic patterns in place to provide safe access for drivers in work zones. The Illinois Tollway will suspend most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures from noon on Thursday, July 2, through 9 a.m. on Monday, July 6. However, some work may continue in existing work zones to keep work on schedule.

Tollway drivers can expect to see ongoing work:

- On the <u>Edens Spur Tollway (I-94)</u> where traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction between Illinois Route 43 and the Edens Expressway.
- On the <u>Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294)</u> where work zones are in place between Irving Park Road and Wolf Road, between Electric Avenue and Lake Street/North Avenue, at the BNSF Railway Bridge and on either end of the Mile Long Bridge between 75th Street and I-55 and between Archer Avenue and the Des Plaines River.
- At the <u>I-294/I-57 Interchange</u> where northbound Tollway traffic is reduced from four to three lanes between 159<sup>th</sup> Street and I-57 and work zones are in place on I-57.
- On the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) where traffic shifts are in place for work between Eola Road and Illinois Route 59.

#### Stay safe with all-electronic tolling

As a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus, all toll collection is being handled only with I-PASS, E-ZPass or pay online, and grace period tolling has been extended. If you do not have an I-PASS, within seven days of travel pay your unpaid tolls online using the Trip Calculator. After seven days during the extended grace period, use the Search By Plate feature to look up your plate and pay unpaid tolls to avoid a future invoice and additional fees.

# Take a break at Tollway Oases

All six Illinois Tollway oases remain open for drivers who need to take a break or fuel up, and all sites are adhering to the same COVID-19 guidelines as all Illinois businesses. Indoor dining areas now offer limited seating and carry-out food service from restaurants and 7-Eleven fuel stations is available. Face

masks or coverings are required inside the oases and social distancing guidelines are in place. Public washrooms and hand sanitizer stations are available, though water fountains are currently disabled.

# Call for roadside assistance if needed

Call \*999 to get help from Tollway roadway maintenance crews or from Illinois State Police District 15 who patrol the Tollway system 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Motorist aid patrols stand ready to help stranded customers change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck.

#### **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.