



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) AND RAMP FROM LAGRANGE ROAD

Ramp and temporary lane closures needed to safely accommodate bridge beam removal

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin next week on the on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between the 83rd Street Toll Plaza and Archer Avenue for bridge beam removal as part of the Tollway’s work to prepare for roadway reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between I-55 and 95th Street.

Up to 10 nights of intermittent, full closures in both directions may be needed on I-294, along with the closure and detour of the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294, for bridge beam removal to construct a new Archer Avenue Bridge over I-294.

Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the removal of bridge beams. Bridge beam removal will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. All work is weather dependent.

“This work is necessary to keep the Tollway in good condition for years to come,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We work to limit lane closures to temporary overnight hours to minimize the impact of construction on daily commuters.”

During the week of July 13, on I-294 one lane in both directions is scheduled to close at 8 p.m. each night, with a second lane closing at 10 p.m. and a third lane closing at midnight. Intermittent, full closures of I-294, each lasting 15 minutes, will begin after midnight.

In addition, the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294 is scheduled to close at 8 p.m. and a detour will be posted. The detour will route traffic east on Archer Avenue to Oak Grove Avenue and then to westbound Archer Avenue where traffic will be directed to the ramp onto LaGrange Road which will provide access to southbound I-294.

All lanes on I-294 and the ramp are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning.



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

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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