



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 5, 2020**

**TRAFFIC SHIFT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK  
ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) MILE LONG BRIDGE**

*Up to three lanes of traffic will close overnight to complete the traffic shifts*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work to shift traffic on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Archer Avenue and the Mile Long Bridge is scheduled to begin this week and continue into next week as part of the Illinois Tollway’s ongoing construction of the Mile Long Bridge Project. Overnight lane closures with traffic reduced to a single lane will be needed and delays are expected.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place throughout construction to alert drivers to scheduled lane closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits. The traffic shifts will enable the Tollway to provide a work zone and safely accommodate four lanes of traffic in both directions during construction work. 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.”

Beginning Thursday, August 6, and continuing into Monday, August 10, crews will be working to shift I-294 traffic in both directions onto the southbound side of the roadway between Archer Avenue and the Mile Long Bridge to create a work zone for construction of a new northbound bridge over LaGrange Road. When the traffic shifts are complete, four lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through November.

Overnight Thursday, August 6, southbound I-294 lane closures are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure between Archer Avenue and the Mile Long Bridge, followed by closure of a second lane at 8 p.m. and closure of a third lane at 11 p.m. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Friday, August 7.

During daytime hours on Friday, August 7, a single northbound lane closure will be put in place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for barrier wall placement in the construction work zone.

Overnight Sunday, August 9, northbound I-294 lane closures are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 8 p.m. and closure of a third lane at 11 p.m. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Monday, August 10.

Lane closure and construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway’s website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

This work is part of the Illinois Tollway’s project to reconstruct the Mile Long Bridge that carries traffic over two major railroads, the Des Plaines River, the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal and the Illinois & Michigan Canal and local roads, and over several major distribute on centers. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel across the Mile Long Bridge daily. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

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The project includes building two, new side-by-side 4,800-foot-long bridge structures to increase capacity from four lanes to five lanes in each direction as part of the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street. In addition, the inside shoulders on the bridge will be built to serve as Flex Lanes to provide for transit, assist emergency vehicles and serve as an alternate lane to reduce traffic congestion when warranted.

The design of the new bridge structures took into consideration the sensitive aquatic ecosystem, navigable waterways and existing railroad and roadway operations underneath the structure. Each of the new structures will have fewer piers to reduce the environmental impact on the waterways and industrial areas below. Each bridge will have 27 spans supported by 26 piers, compared to the existing structures with 106 piers. The spans will be made up of a total of nearly 600 steel or concrete beams of various lengths.

The Illinois Tollway is coordinating work on the Mile Long Bridge Project with the Village of Hodgkins, Village of Countryside, Village of Willow Springs, Village of Justice, Cook County, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), IDNR Office of Water Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, as well as numerous businesses located near the Mile Long Bridge.

The project is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

### **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 and can include 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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