



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO WEEK CLOSURE OF ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH UNDER REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) SCHEDULED

Closure to begin this week to accommodate bridge removal on I-88

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway has scheduled the closure of the pedestrian and bicycle underpass on the Illinois Prairie Path between Eola Road and Illinois Route 59 for two weeks as work continues to rebuild the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) above the path. All work is weather dependent.

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

Beginning Thursday, September 24, the portion of the Illinois Prairie Path underneath I-88 is scheduled to close for two weeks. A detour will be posted directing pedestrian and bicycle traffic to use an existing barrier-protected sidewalk along Eola Road to cross I-88.

The underpass closure is needed to safely remove the existing westbound I-88 bridge over the Prairie Path. Earlier this year the Tollway completed construction of the new underpass for the Prairies Path and removal of the eastbound side of the I-88 bridge. An additional closure of the Illinois Prairie Path will be needed in early 2021 to complete the mainline improvements on I-88.

The Illinois Tollway has scheduled maintenance and repair work on roadway, bridges and ramps between the Aurora Toll Plaza and Illinois Route 59, including mainline pavement and ramp patching, bridge painting, removal and replacement of the Illinois Prairie Path Bridge, ditch cleaning, signing, lighting, pavement markings and erosion control. This work is scheduled for completion in 2021.

The I-88 roadway and bridge improvements will provide customers a smoother surface, improve the overall driving experience and extend the life of the roadway. This work is part of the Tollway’s 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, DuPage County, Kane County, City of Naperville, Naperville Township, City of Aurora, Aurora Township and The Illinois Prairie Path corporation, as well as local fire and police departments.

Maps and construction information about the I-88 Roadway, Bridge and Ramp Repair work is available on the Tollway’s website at illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency’s overall commitment to roadway safety.

A 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect on I-88 throughout the repair project. Work zone speed limits will also be in place on ramps and local crossroad bridges. Work 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.

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 a fine of up to \$25,000 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* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway 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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