

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 14, 2020

OVERNIGHT RAMP AND LANE CLOSURES, TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER ON TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) AT I-290 FOR COMED WORK

Ongoing ramp closures with detours and overnight full lane closures continuing for ComEd transmission line work

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – A traffic shift is scheduled to begin tonight, and weekend overnight ramp and lane closures are scheduled at the I-290 Interchange on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to provide a work zone to safely accommodate work related to the relocation of ComEd transmission lines for Illinois Tollway construction. Delays are expected.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight closures and detours. All work is weather dependent. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's <u>Daily Construction Alerts</u>.

Drivers can anticipate ongoing overnight ramp and lane closures continuing through the end of the year on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), as well as I-290 and some local roads, as ComEd continues to relocate transmission lines for Illinois Tollway's reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway.

"As part of the Illinois Tollway's dedication to safety, we are committed to prioritizing the safety of both drivers and workers during construction," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We understand the inconvenience that this approach to roadwork can cause, so we are always working to find ways when possible to reduce the impact of this disruption to our customers."

Overnight tonight, October 14, up to two lanes will be closed at a time on southbound I-294 between I-290 and the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) to accommodate work to shift traffic. Once that work is complete, all lanes will remain open to traffic. In addition, traffic shifts will be put in place on the ramps connecting eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to westbound I-88. Traffic will remain in this configuration through November.

On Sunday, October 18, on I-294 between Roosevelt Road and Butterfield Road, double lane closures are scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. northbound and 10 p.m. southbound, with triple lane closures in both directions beginning at midnight followed by intermittent, full roadway closures, each lasting 15 minutes.

In addition, the ramp connecting southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290 is scheduled to close at 11 p.m., and the ramp connecting westbound I-290 to northbound I-294 is scheduled to close at midnight. Posted detours will include:

- For westbound I-290 to northbound I-294, I-290 traffic will be routed to the Lake Street exit and then onto northbound I-294.
- For southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290, traffic will be routed to westbound I-290 in advance of the exit for I-290 eastbound and then directed to exit at York Road, routed through the interchange and onto eastbound I-290.

All ramps and lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Monday, October 19.

Similar closures are also scheduled Monday night into Tuesday, October 20. If this work cannot be completed as scheduled, additional overnight closures will be scheduled later in the week.

On Sunday, November 1, two southbound lanes on I-294 are scheduled to close overnight beginning at 8 p.m. In addition, I-290 traffic in both directions between St. Charles Road and Wolf Road is scheduled to be reduced to a single lane beginning at 11 p.m. Multiple ramp closures with detours are also scheduled to begin at 11 p.m.

Ramp closures are as follows:

- Northbound I-294 to westbound I-290. Detoured traffic will be routed to the exit at Mannheim Road and then through the interchange ramps to continue west on I-290.
- Southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290. Detoured traffic will be routed to westbound I-290 in advance of the exit for I-290 eastbound and then directed to exit at York Road, routed through the interchange and onto eastbound I-290.
- Eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294. Detoured traffic will be directed to the Mannheim Road Interchange and through the interchange onto westbound I-290 and then onto southbound I-294.
- Eastbound St. Charles Road to eastbound I-290. No detour will be posted.
- Westbound St. Charles Road to eastbound I-290. No detour will be posted.

All lanes and ramps are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning. These closures and detours are scheduled to occur over six nights.

Additional closures will be scheduled as needed through the rest of the year.



<u>View WB I-290 to NB I-294</u> Ramp Closure Detour Map



<u>View NB I-294 to WB I-290</u> Ramp Closure Detour Map



<u>View SB I-294 to EB I-290</u> Ramp Closure Detour Map



<u>View EB I-290 to SB I-294</u> Ramp Closure Detour Map

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, 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.

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.