



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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**BRIDGE REMOVAL TO BEGIN ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)
FOR BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY BRIDGE PROJECT**
Nightly lane closures scheduled, including full roadway closures in November

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Beginning the week of October 26 and continuing into the winter, lane closures and long-term traffic shifts on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) will be scheduled as needed for ongoing reconstruction of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge between Hinsdale and Western Springs as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway Project.

Working in coordination with BNSF, the Tollway has completed a temporary bridge to provide for uninterrupted commuter rail and freight operations during bridge reconstruction. BNSF and Metra trains are now using this temporary bypass bridge and the Tollway is beginning work to remove the existing bridge and construct the new bridge.

“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.”

During the week of October 26, overnight lane closures on I-294 will be scheduled as needed in both directions at the BNSF Bridge for work to prepare removing the existing bridge structures.

Beginning in early November, work to remove the bridge structures will begin. These activities will occur during overnight and weekend hours due to allowable Tollway lane closure times and BNSF track outage availability to ensure a safe construction zone for workers, as well as rail and roadway commuters.

Steel bridge beam removal will require scheduling of at least three nights of lane closures in each direction on I-294. The overnight closures will include up to three lanes closed at a time with intermittent, full roadway closures after midnight. Lanes will be reopened by 5 a.m. in advance of rush hour each morning.

Following removal of the overhead bridge structures, traffic is scheduled to shift to the outside lanes to accommodate removal and reconstruction of the center bridge pier. This work will include intermittent pile driving, with as much of the work scheduled during daytime hours as possible, however night and weekend work may be scheduled based on BNSF track outage availability.

Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of the year, with additional lane closures and traffic shifts will be scheduled in both directions in early 2021 as construction activities continue through the winter.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to lane closures and traffic shifts. Up-to-date information regarding specific lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alerts](#). All work is weather dependent.

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The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the BNSF Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad over I-294 between Hinsdale and Western Springs, to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of the Tollway underneath. The new fourth track on the bridge will be used for maintenance purposes by BNSF.

The BNSF Railway Bridge Project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with local municipalities, park districts, as well as police and fire departments.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction information about the BNSF Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

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.