



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2020

**EXTENDED RAMP CLOSURE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEKEND
AT THE 75th STREET INTERCHANGE ON THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**
Ramp from northbound I-294 to 75th Street to close for three weeks with posted detour

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – An extended closure with detour on the ramp connecting the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to 75th Street is scheduled to begin this weekend and remain in place for up to three weeks for ramp pavement work as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the ramp closure and detour. The closure is necessary because there is not enough room on the ramp to safely provide a work zone and accommodate traffic. All work is weather dependent.

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

On Sunday, November 1, work to close the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to 75th Street is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. with a posted detour for three weeks. The detour will direct traffic to travel northbound on I-55, exit to northbound LaGrange Road, continue to 67th Street and Santa Fe Drive to reach 75th Street.



In addition to the ramp closure, overnight lane closures on northbound I-294 will be scheduled as needed to complete the work. The closures and detour are needed to accommodate pavement work at the top of the ramp where it meets the Tollway mainline roadway.

This work is being done in conjunction with of the Illinois Tollway's reconstruction of 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 distribution centers. The Illinois Tollway is coordinating work on the Mile Long Bridge 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 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, including UPS.

The Mile Long Bridge is one of the first major construction segments for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel across the Mile Long Bridge daily. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

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 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.

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