



## Central Tri-State Tollway Project

### CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is being reconstructed from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street to provide congestion relief, reconstruct old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand, and address regional needs.

Work in 2020 includes:

Construction to rebuild and widen I-294 to five lanes between the O'Hare Oasis and Wolf Road in Franklin Park.

Continuation of the reconstruction of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge in Hinsdale and Western Springs.

Continuation of the reconstruction of the Mile Long Bridge between Hodgkins and Willow Springs.

The start of work to replace the I-55 ramp to northbound I-294.

The start of work to rebuild the Archer Avenue Bridge over I-294, as well as eastbound Archer Avenue over 79th Street and westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294.

Advance work is scheduled to begin at the I-290/I-88 Interchange.

Advance work is scheduled to begin along I-294 between I-55 and 95th Street.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project will rebuild and widen the roadway to increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability.

The project includes reconfiguring the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294, rebuilding the Mile Long Bridge and the BNSF Railway Bridge, as well as integrating Flex Lanes and SmartRoad technology.

#### Northern Section: Balmoral Avenue to North Avenue

Work in the northern section began in June 2018 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024.

The Tollway will repair pavement and rebuild and widen

roadway, as well as reconstruct shoulders, including Flex Lanes.

Bridges carrying I-294 over Irving Park Road, Lawrence Avenue and the Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park will be reconstructed, and improvements will be made to local crossroad bridges including Balmoral Avenue and Wolf Road.

As part of this work, the O'Hare Oasis over-the-road pavilion was removed in 2019 to accommodate roadway widening. The 7-Eleven fuel stations and parking lots remain and the Tollway will coordinate redevelopment with Schiller Park.

Ramp improvements will include reconstructing portions of the ramps connecting the O'Hare Oasis and Irving Park Road to I-294, as well as coordination with the North Avenue Interchange Project with Cook County.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

#### Central Section: North Avenue to I-55

Work in the central section between North Avenue and I-55 is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026.

Mainline construction between North Avenue and I-55 is currently scheduled to begin in 2022 and continue through 2025. The Tollway will rebuild and widen roadway, as well as reconstruct shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

As part of this work, the Hinsdale Oasis over-the-road pavilion will be removed to accommodate roadway widening. The 7-Eleven fuel stations and parking lots remain and the Tollway will coordinate redevelopment with Hinsdale.

As part of the work in this section, the Tollway will reconfigure and improve the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294 with advanced work starting in 2020.

The BNSF Railway Bridge over I-294 is being reconstructed and lengthened. In addition, improvements will be made to local crossroad bridges including St. Charles Road, Cermak Road, 31st Street, 47th Street and 55th Street and Plainfield Road and St. Charles Road over I-290.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting,

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signage and landscaping improvements.

### **Southern Section: I-55 to 95th Street**

Work in the southern section between I-55 and 95th Street is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Work in the southern section began in 2019 with the start of reconstruction of the Mile Long Bridge. Work for mainline construction is scheduled to begin in 2020. The Tollway will rebuild and widen roadway to five lanes in both directions, as well as reconstruct shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

As part of the work in this section, the Tollway will work with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Justice to build a new interchange at 88th/Cork Avenue.

Improvements will be made to local crossroad bridges including Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue. The ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is also scheduled to be rebuilt adjacent to the existing structure.

At Archer Avenue, new bridges will be built carrying Archer Avenue over I-294 and carrying eastbound Archer Avenue over 79th Street and westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp carrying southbound LaGrange Road to I-294. These bridges are being reconstructed to accommodate the widening of the mainline.

Work also includes noisewall, guardrail, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping improvements.

### **Customer Impacts**

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to scheduled bridge closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.

Shoulder closures and traffic shifts will be used to provide room for a work zone and safely accommodate traffic. Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

In addition, lane closures will be scheduled as needed on the Tollway and local roads to complete work.

### **WORK ZONE SAFETY**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

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. 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 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.

Visit the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

### **PURPOSE**

The Central Tri-State Tollway is being reconstructed to increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability. 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 this portion of the Tri-State Tollway daily.

### **Agency Coordination**

The Central Tri-State Tollway crosses two counties and impacts more than 30 local communities, plus numerous other agencies. Outreach and coordination with all these entities is an important part of the work the Illinois Tollway has done and continues to do on the Central Tri-State Reconstruction Project.

The Illinois Tollway works closely with residents, communities, businesses and elected officials to plan for and implement improvements on I-294. Hosting public open house meetings and community outreach meetings, the Tollway is working with residents and businesses to provide information and answers to questions.

Included in the many agencies that the project is being coordinated with are: the Illinois Department of Transportation, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Department of Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Highway Administration, Cook County, DuPage County and more than 30 local communities, as well as local fire and police departments.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In addition to reducing the cost of this work, reuse of these materials reduces the need for virgin asphalt materials and reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and the volume of material that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

## GETTING TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- [Illinoistollway.com](http://Illinoistollway.com) – Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.