



## Archer Avenue Interchange Project

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

To accommodate the rebuilding and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Illinois Tollway will reconstruct and improve several ramps and bridges providing access to Archer Avenue, including construction of a new ramp connecting westbound Archer Avenue to northbound I-294.

Construction is beginning in spring 2020 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

To improve functionality and access, the Illinois Tollway will reconstruct the eastbound and westbound Archer Avenue bridges over I-294, which each carry up to 22,000 vehicles daily, the eastbound Archer Avenue bridge over 79th Street and the bridge carrying westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294. Ramp and local road improvements on Archer Avenue and 79th Street will also be included as part of the project. Work also includes drainage and lighting improvements and landscaping.

#### Bridge Improvements

The two bridge structures carrying eastbound and westbound Archer Avenue over I-294 will be reconstructed and lengthened to accommodate the widening of I-294 from four to five lanes in both directions.

Reconstruction of the bridges carrying eastbound Archer Avenue over 79th Street and eastbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294 have been included to accommodate the widening of I-294 and connect local improvements at the Archer Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue intersection, which serves up to 10,000 vehicles a day.

The new bridges over I-294 will be constructed with steel girders, and the two new bridges over 79th Street and the LaGrange Road ramp to I-294 will be constructed with concrete girders. The new bridges will have wider shoulders and design standards will be met to increase safety and improve traffic flow in this area.

The bridges will remain open to traffic throughout

construction using traffic shifts and lane reductions with work scheduled to begin in spring 2020 and be completed by end of 2021.

#### Ramp Improvements

As part of the construction work, portions of ramps in the project area will be reconstructed to match to new roadway improvements for Archer Avenue and to improve access. Ramp improvements will include widened shoulders and design to increase safety and improve the flow of traffic.

Ramps included as part of this project are the ramp from southbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294, southbound LaGrange Road to eastbound Archer Avenue, westbound Archer Avenue to northbound LaGrange Road as well as Archer Avenue connections to 79th Street.

Ramp work is scheduled to begin in 2020 and be complete by the spring of 2021.

#### New Ramp from Westbound Archer Avenue to Northbound I-294

In coordination with construction of the new, the Illinois Tollway will construct a new, single-lane ramp connecting westbound Archer Avenue to northbound I-294. Work on the first part of the ramp will begin in spring 2020 and pavement will be complete fall of 2021.

In addition, following completion of the 88th/Cork Avenue Interchange Project, the existing ramp connecting Archer Avenue to I-294 will be permanently closed to improve traffic flow.

#### Local Improvements

Improvements on Archer Avenue and 79th Street will include shoulder widening and drainage improvements. The Tollway's construction will be done in coordination with Cook County work to complete reconstruction of the intersections of Archer Avenue/Oak Grove Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue/Cork Avenue/79th Street.

#### Customer Impacts

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to scheduled lane



closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.

The Tollway will use traffic shifts and lane reductions when possible to maintain access, however temporary closures and detours will be scheduled as needed to safely accommodate construction work.

On I-294, lane closures and traffic shifts will be necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate construction. All mainline lanes will remain open during peak hours of travel; temporary mainline lane closures may be used during off peak hours.

In 2021, ramp closures with posted detours will be scheduled, including on ramps connecting southbound LaGrange Road to eastbound 79th Street, eastbound Archer Avenue to southbound I-294, and westbound 79th Street to northbound LaGrange Road.

## PURPOSE

Improvements in the Archer Avenue area are part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Project, which 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.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Village of Justice and Village of Willow Springs as well as local fire and police departments.

## WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and local roads 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 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.

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

## 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.