

TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE



I-294/I-57 Interchange Project

OVERVIEW

The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation, will continue work in 2020 to complete the Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange.

Phase Two of this project includes construction of new ramps providing access to and from Chicago. This phase of the project began in 2019 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022.

PROJECT SUMMARY

To complete the I-294/I-57 Interchange, four new ramps will be built connecting southbound I-57 to I-294 and I-294 to northbound I-57. As part of this work, I-57 will be widened between I-294 and the CSX Railroad to accommodate added traffic entering and exiting the Tollway. Additional work includes drainage improvements, erosion and sediment control and retaining wall construction.

Work in 2020 includes constructing a new median barrier and roadway widening on I-57, as well as continued construction of the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to northbound I-57 and the start of construction on two ramps carrying southbound I-57 to I-294, including a flyover ramp bridge.

The flyover ramp bridge will carry traffic from southbound I-57 to southbound I-294 and from 147th to southbound I-57. The multi-span structure will be 2,649 feet long with a bridge deck approximately 16 feet above I-294 and 17 feet above I-57.

On October 25, 2014, the Tollway completed Phase One of the project and opened the highly anticipated I-294/I-57 Interchange – creating a vital connection between two major interstates in the Chicago Southland. For the first time, the new I-294/I-57 Interchange provided motorists with access between I-294 and I-57 and at 147th Street. It created access from northbound I-57 to northbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to southbound I-57, including a new interchange at 147th Street.

Customer Impacts

Lane closures and traffic shifts on I-57 and I-294 will be necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate construction.

Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

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.

PURPOSE

The Tri-State Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange is improving travel by providing customers with completed access between the two interstates. The enhanced interchange will reduce congestion on local routes, enhance economic development and improve regional mobility. The all-electronic interstate-to-interstate connection better serves commuters and freight operators while opening access for local communities.

When complete, the I-294/I-57 Interchange is expected to serve more than 76,000 vehicles per day and provide direct freight access to Chicago's south suburbs – saving drivers \$4 million annually in fuel. Tri-State Tollway drivers currently using I-80 to get to I-57 will save 25 travel hours per year using the new interchange.

The \$719 million I-294/I-57 Interchange Project is funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and I-57 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.

On I-57, 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



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Updated 3/4/20



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. Posted signs advise drivers of 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.

ALL-ELECTRONIC INTERCHANGE

The Illinois Tollway operates the nation's largest electronic tolling system, with more than 90 percent of all toll transactions paid electronically through I-PASS or E-ZPass. I-PASS customers experience faster, safer and more convenient commutes and save time and money.

As part of the I-294/I-57 Interchange Project, ramp toll collection provides cashless tolling with I-PASS or Pay Online lanes.

The regular toll rate is \$1.50 for customers who pay their unpaid tolls online with a discounted I-PASS rate of 75 cents, and truck rates range from \$1.50 to \$4.00 during daytime hours, with overnight discounts offered.

Tollway customers who would like to pay cash to travel between I-294 and I-57 can still do so at the 159th Street Ramp Toll Plaza or via the 163rd Street Toll Plaza. In addition, those without I-PASS can pay their tolls online at the cash rate within the seven-day grace period. For more information about how to obtain an I-PASS, please visit www.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 – 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](#) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.



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