



Mile Long Bridge Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Mile Long Bridge is a critical piece of infrastructure on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) corridor as it carries drivers over two major railroads, three water resources and local roads, and over a major distribution center for UPS and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.

The Mile Long Bridge Project is scheduled through 2023, including construction of two new, wider bridge structures and stormwater and drainage improvements.

The Tollway is committed to maintaining four lanes of traffic in each direction throughout construction. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel on the Mile Long Bridge daily.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Bridge Reconstruction

The Mile Long Bridge Project includes construction of two new bridge structures that will increase capacity from four lanes to five lanes in both directions as part of the Central Tri-State Project. In addition, the inside shoulders will be built to serve as flex lanes, which can be used for a variety of safety-related needs.

The new Mile Long Bridge will include two, side-by-side 4,800-foot-long structures. The design of the new structures took into consideration the sensitive aquatic ecosystem, navigable waterways and existing railroad and roadway operations underneath the structure.

Construction on the new northbound bridge began to the east of the existing bridge in summer 2019 and is scheduled to continue through 2020. Once that is complete, traffic will shift to the new bridge, and the old northbound lanes and structures will be demolished.

Following this, construction will begin on the new bridge to the east of the existing southbound lanes, while the existing southbound lanes maintain traffic. Once the new southbound bridge is complete, traffic will be shifted to the new structure and the existing southbound structure will be demolished.

Each of the new structures will have fewer piers to reduce the environmental impact on the waterways and industrial areas below. The new northbound bridge structure will have

27 spans supported by 26 piers. The new southbound bridge structure will have 27 spans supported by 26 piers. The existing structures have 106 piers.

The spans will support a total of nearly 600 beams of various lengths, including both steel and concrete. Steel beams, measuring up to 10 feet tall and ranging in length from 57 feet to 134 feet long will be transported from Indiana and concrete beams, each measuring nearly 8 feet tall and up to 187 feet long, will be transported from Wisconsin.

Local Road Improvements

As part of the project, the I-294 bridges over LaGrange Road and portions of the 75th Street ramps will be reconstructed. In addition, after construction is complete, the Illinois Tollway will restore local roads used for construction access.

Local Utility Improvements and Coordination

The project also includes stormwater and drainage improvements including watermain replacements for the Village of Burr Ridge, Village of Hodgkins and West Suburban Water Commission, and water retention and detention enhancements.

Several utility projects are being completed in coordination with the bridge project including ComEd tower relocations, gas pipelines and a jet fuel line supplying fuel to O'Hare Airport.

Customer Impacts

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

During bridge beam installation in 2020, trucks with beams will be parked along I-294 near the 83rd Street Toll Plaza during the day and beams will be installed on new bridges piers during overnight hours with lane closures scheduled as needed to safely provide a work zone.

Local Roadways

Delays and temporary, short-term closures are expected on Santa Fe Drive and Midwest Cargo Road underneath the Mile Long Bridge as construction is underway.

In addition, throughout construction, Willow Boulevard will



be used to transport construction materials in and out of the construction site. During construction, access will not be blocked, however, there will be increased construction traffic.

John Husar Trail Access

Throughout construction, bicycle and pedestrian access will be maintained on the John Husar Trail located in Forest Preserve District of Cook County property on the south side of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Willow Springs.

A portion of the loop trail between Willow Springs Road and Mile Long Bridge will be closed through 2023 to allow construction access and to protect bicyclists and pedestrians as construction activity continues overhead.

PURPOSE

Originally constructed in 1958, the Mile Long Bridge is nearing the end of its service life. Frequently requiring repairs and disrupting traffic for customers, the Tollway plans to rebuild the Mile Long Bridge structure as part of the Central Tri-State (I-294) Project. By rebuilding the bridge, customers will experience increased safety and less on-going repair disruptions.

The Mile Long Bridge is being built to accommodate the foreseeable future needs to the greatest extent possible as it is expected to last as long as 100 years

In the meantime, bridge repair work will occasionally be necessary to extend the life of the existing bridge structure and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. Repairs will be limited to off peak travel times to minimize travel delays and impacts to customers.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad, Canadian National Railway, Cook County, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, DuPage Water Commission, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District UPS, along with local businesses and municipalities including Willow Springs, Hodgkins, Countryside, Burr Ridge, Justice, and police and fire departments. Permitting and coordination is also being conducted with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), IDNR Office of Water Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission.

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 construction.

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.

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](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.