



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 7, 2021**

## **TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) AND LAGRANGE ROAD OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEKEND FOR MILE LONG BRIDGE PROJECT**

*Temporary lane and ramp closures needed over six nights to safely accommodate bridge beam placement*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Temporary, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this weekend and continue into the next week on LaGrange Road and on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between the Archer Avenue and 75<sup>th</sup> Street in Willow Springs and Justice for Mile Long Bridge Project bridge beam installation.

Altogether, six nights of overnight closures will be coordinated in both directions on I-294 and LaGrange Road, including several nights of closures of the ramp connecting Archer Avenue to northbound LaGrange Road. Lane closures and durations will vary and will include intermittent, full closures at times on both I-294 and LaGrange Road.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The closures are necessary to safely accommodate traffic and provide a work zone for the removal and installation of bridge beams over the local roadway and construction of the new Mile Long Bridge.

This work is part of the Illinois Tollway's project to build the new southbound Mile Long Bridge structure 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 lane closures for bridge beam installation will begin Saturday, October 9, on northbound I-294 with one lane scheduled to close at 7:30 p.m., followed by a second northbound lane and one southbound lane closing at 8 p.m. On LaGrange Road at 9 p.m. two southbound lanes are scheduled to close and intermittent, full closures of LaGrange Road in both directions, each lasting 15 minutes, are also scheduled to begin. In addition, the ramp connecting Archer Avenue to northbound LaGrange Road will close. No detour will be posted.

All lanes on LaGrange Road and the ramp are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Sunday, October 10, and all lanes on I-294 are scheduled to reopen by 1 p.m.

Ongoing local road and Tollway overnight closures will be scheduled through Thursday, October 14, and will include intermittent 15-minute full closures on I-294, as well as continued closures on LaGrange Road and the Archer Avenue ramp. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

As part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway Project, the Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the Mile Long Bridge. Construction of the new northbound structure was completed in 2020 and construction of the new southbound structure is scheduled to be complete in 2022.

A \$184.6 million contract to build the new northbound bridge structure began in summer 2019 and was completed in November 2020. Work began on a second \$182.6 million contract in 2020 to remove the

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old northbound structure and deliver the new southbound Mile Long Bridge to drivers by the end of 2022. The entire Mile Long Bridge Project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

The Mile Long Bridge Project includes building two, new side-by-side 4,800-foot-long bridge structures designed to last 100 years and increasing capacity to five lanes in each direction. The original bridge structures were built in 1958.

Both of the new bridges feature 27 spans supported by 26 piers, compared to the previous structures with 53 piers, reducing the impact on waterways, roadway and rail operations below. In addition, the bridges' inside shoulders in both directions will be built to serve as Flex Lanes for transit, for emergency vehicles and as an alternate lane when warranted.

The Illinois Tollway is coordinating work on the Mile Long Bridge Project with the Village of Hodgkins, Village of Countryside, Village of Willow Springs, Village of Justice, Cook County, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Coast Guard, 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.

Construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project and the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects Section on the Tollway's website at [illinoistollway.com](http://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. On LaGrange Road, a 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect during October.

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 nine 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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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