



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2018

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AND RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED THIS WEEK ON 159TH STREET AS WORK CONTINUES ON BRIDGE OVER TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

159th Street over I-294 remains open during reconstruction

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – A traffic shift and ramp closures are scheduled at the 159th Street Interchange on Tri-State Tollway (I-294) this week to move all traffic onto the new eastbound side of the bridge over the Tollway to accommodate reconstruction of the westbound side. Traffic is expected to remain in this configuration into 2019.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The new traffic pattern and ramp closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate traffic during bridge reconstruction.

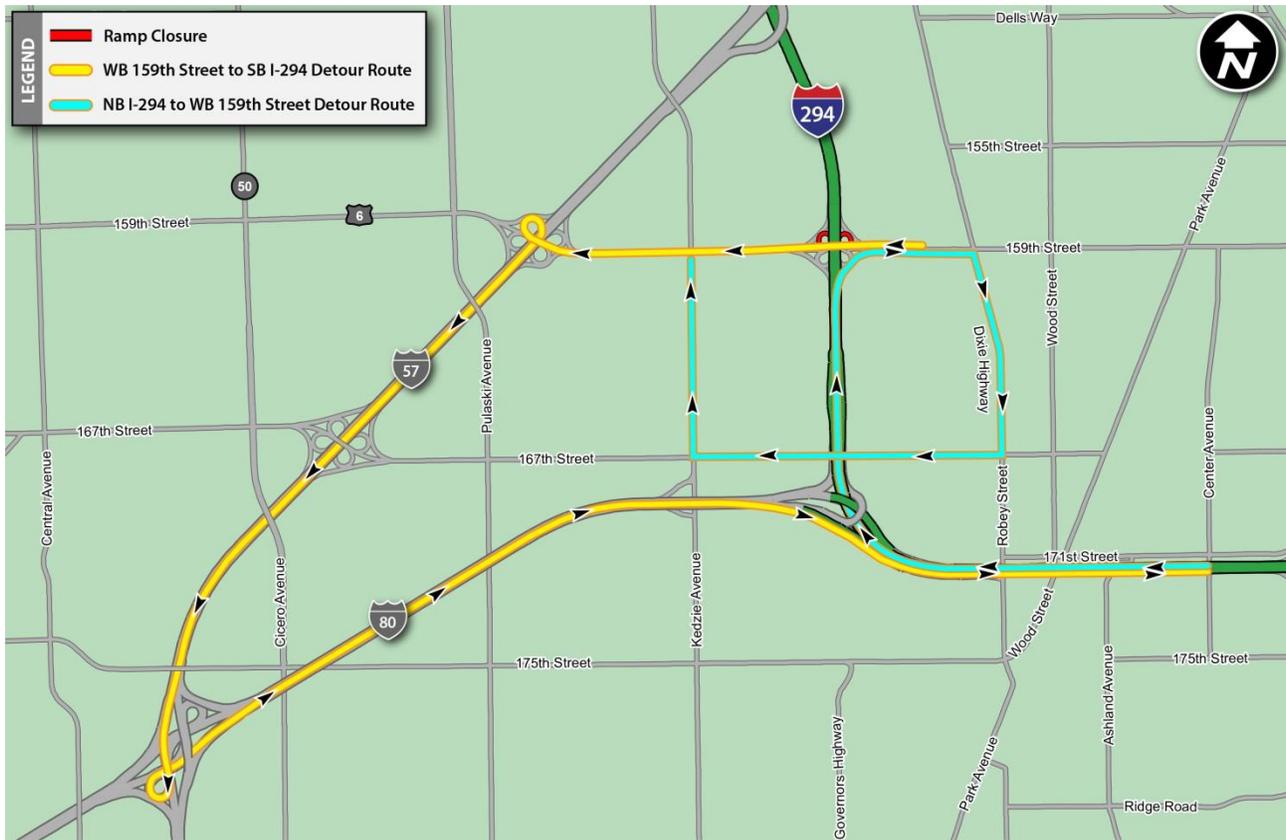
Weather permitting, during the early morning hours on Thursday, November 1, 159th Street traffic in both directions will be shifted onto the new portion of the bridge providing for one lane of traffic in both directions on 159th Street over I-294.

Simultaneously, the ramps connecting eastbound 159th Street to northbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to eastbound 159th Street are scheduled to reopen and the ramps carrying traffic from westbound 159th Street to southbound I-294 and from northbound I-294 to westbound 159th Street are scheduled to close.

Detours will be posted for ramp traffic. The detour for westbound 159th Street to southbound I-294 will direct traffic to I-57 and I-80. The detour for northbound I-294 to westbound 159th Street will direct traffic to Dixie Highway, 167th Street and Kedzie Avenue.

On I-294, traffic in both directions is shifted to the right with the same number of lanes open as were in place before construction began and will continue to remain in this configuration.

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In 2018, the Illinois Tollway began improvements at the 159th Street Interchange to coordinate with future local improvements planned for 159th Street. Work includes rebuilding the existing 159th Street Bridge and reconstructing four ramps at the 159th Street Interchange: southbound I-294 to eastbound 159th Street, eastbound 159th Street to northbound I-294, northbound I-294 to westbound 159th Street and westbound 159th Street to southbound I-294. Lighting and drainage structures will also be upgraded.

The 159th Street Bridge Project will extend the life of the interchange, increase traffic capacity and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. More than 13,000 vehicles use this interchange daily.

Maps, construction and detour information about the 159th Street Bridge Project is available on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com via the Interactive Tollway Map and under "Projects Overview" in the Explore Projects section.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and local fire and police departments.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that 159th Street and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway 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.

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 \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 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 six years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for emerging projects.

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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