



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**TRAFFIC SHIFTS RESUMING ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)
FOR MAINLINE RECONSTRUCTION BETWEEN I-55 AND 95TH STREET**

Lane closure and traffic shifts, including counterflow lanes, needed for work in 2022

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to resume work on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project's southern section between I-55 and 95th Street, including the continued reconstruction and widening of the roadway to five lanes in both directions.

All work is weather dependent. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#).

On I-294 between the I-55 Interchange and 75th Street, beginning the week of March 14, traffic is scheduled to be shifted on southbound I-294 with overnight lane closures scheduled between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane at times while work is under way to shift southbound traffic to the right onto newly constructed pavement. Once the complete, southbound traffic will be reduced to three lanes.

Northbound I-294 between 75th Street and the I-55 Interchange will be reduced to three lanes with traffic shifts beginning in early April. The new traffic configuration will shift northbound I-294 traffic to the left with three lanes traveling on the southbound side in a counterflow configuration. A fourth northbound lane will be maintained as an exit only lane to I-55.

Traffic in both directions between I-55 and 75th Street will remain in this configuration through late summer. Work in this area includes continued construction of the northbound mainline pavement, reconstruction of the I-294 bridge over I-55, noisewall construction and storm sewer and utility work.

Additionally, during the week of March 14, on northbound I-294 between 83rd Street Plaza to LaGrange Road, traffic is scheduled to shift and overnight lane closures, including intermittent 15-minute closures, will be needed to complete the work. When the shift is complete, two northbound I-294 lanes will be traveling on the southbound side in a counterflow configuration and two northbound lanes will remain on the northbound side shifted to the inside. Southbound traffic in this area is currently shifted and will remain in this configuration.

Traffic between 83rd Street Plaza and LaGrange Road will remain in this configuration through late spring. Work in this area includes northbound pavement and utility work.

During the week of March 28, on southbound I-294 between the 83rd Street Toll Plaza and 95th Street traffic shifts will be scheduled to begin with overnight lane closures to complete the shifts. Four lanes of traffic will be maintained on southbound I-294 with two lanes shifted into the northbound side in a counterflow configuration. Traffic traveling in the counterflow lanes will not have access to the 95th Street exits. Northbound traffic in this area is currently shifted and will remain in this configuration.

Traffic between the 83rd Street Toll Plaza and 95th Street will remain in this configuration through early summer with work continuing on the northbound I-294 bridge over 87th Street and the beginning of

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construction for the new southbound I-294 bridge over 87th Street. Work also includes mainline construction and noisewall, median, storm sewer and utility work.

In addition, the ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to southbound I-294 will remain closed through the summer and traffic shifts are scheduled on the ramps connecting 75th Street to I-294.

Additional traffic shifts will be scheduled in spring including in both directions on I-294 between I-55 and the Mile Long Bridge, as well as on the ramps connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to I-55.

The traffic shifts, lane reductions and ramp detours will continue through the end of 2022 to complete the reconstruction and widening on I-294 between I-55 and 95th Street.

Work in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Burr Ridge, City of Countryside, City of Hickory Hills, Village of Hodgkins, Village of Indian Head, Village of Justice, as well as local fire and police departments.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

Work in this southern section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95th Street began in 2019 and mainline reconstruction and widening is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022. Mainline improvements include rebuilding and widening the I-294 roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road, as well as reconstructing shoulders including adding Flex Lanes. Improvements also include reconstruction of the Mile Long Bridge, the Archer Avenue Interchange, the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 and local crossroad bridges, including Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project 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.

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.

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 10 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 21st 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 planning for emerging projects, including 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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