



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LONG-TERM LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED ON JOLIET ROAD IN INDIAN HEAD PARK FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin a long-term lane closure next week on Joliet Road under the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Indian Head Park as work begins to rebuild the bridge carrying I-294 over Joliet Road. Construction on bridges and ramps in and around the I-55 Interchange is part of the Tollway's Central Tri-State Tollway Project rebuilding and widening I-294 between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street.

Electronic message and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers on Joliet Road and I-294 to the construction work zones and lane closures. All work is weather dependent.

"As part of the Illinois Tollway's dedication to safety, we are committed to prioritizing the safety of both drivers and workers during construction," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. "We will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits."

Beginning the week of February 15, on Joliet Road traffic will be shifted to the left and reduced to one lane in each direction under I-294. The lane closures are needed to provide a work zone for I-294 bridge construction and safety accommodate traffic while bridge work is underway. Construction along Joliet Road will include work to extend the bridge abutments, storm sewer relocation and pavement work.

The closures on Joliet Road are scheduled to remain in place through March, when the Illinois Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin work on an adjacent project. Additional closures on Joliet Road will be scheduled throughout project as needed.

In 2021, the Tollway's work in the I-55 Interchange area will begin to accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294 between 75th Street and I-55. As part of this work, the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 will be reconstructed, along with the I-294 bridges over I-55, Wolf Road, Joliet Road and Flagg Creek. Additional work includes the reconstruction of the Plainfield Road Bridge over I-294 and the northbound ramp to the Hinsdale Oasis. Construction in this area is scheduled to be complete in 2025.

Local road closures in this area are being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways and the Village of Indian Head Park, as well as local fire and police departments.

The Illinois Tollway reconstruction of ramps and bridges in the I-55 Interchange area are necessary to accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294, as well as to reduce congestion, improve safety and address operational issues as well as infrastructure conditions.

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

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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.

Information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

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 Butterfield Road, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect. 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 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 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 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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