



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2021

**LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SHIFTS AND LANE REDUCTIONS BEGIN NEXT WEEK
BETWEEN PLAINFIELD ROAD AND 75TH STREET ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)**
*Traffic reduced to three lanes in each direction with southbound lanes traveling on the northbound side
for roadway reconstruction*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Beginning next week, traffic on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Plainfield Road and 75th Street is scheduled to be reduced to three lanes in both directions with all traffic shifted onto the northbound side for mainline bridge and roadway reconstruction and widening to five lanes as part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration into the end of the year.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns and construction throughout the construction season. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's Daily Construction Alerts.

"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 understand the inconvenience that this approach to roadwork can cause, so we are always working to find ways when possible to reduce the impact of this disruption to our customers."

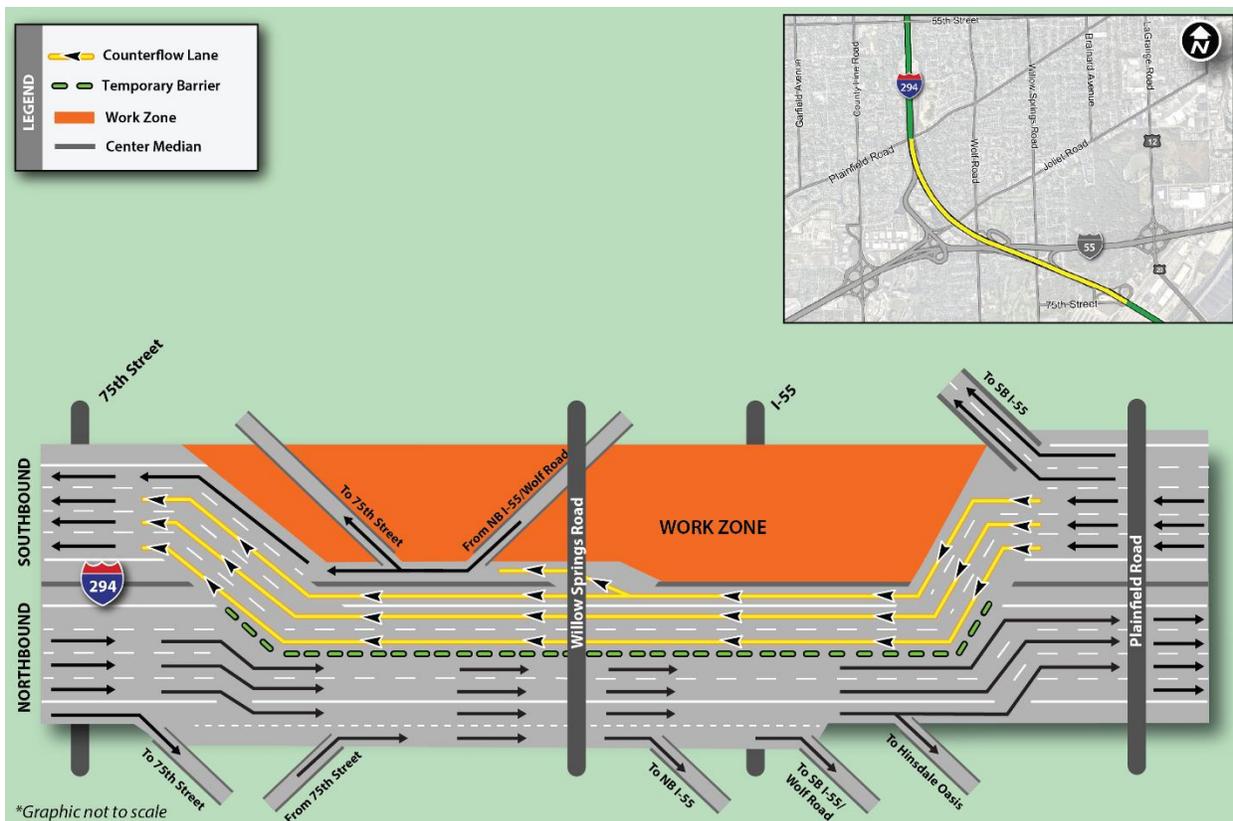
Work will occur overnight Monday, April 12, and Tuesday, April 13, to shift all southbound I-294 traffic between Plainfield Road and 75th Street onto the northbound side of I-294, to create a work zone for the reconstruction of the roadway and mainline bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek South, Joliet Road and Wolf Road. Traffic in both directions between Plainfield Road and I-55 will be reduced from four lanes to three.

Overnight Monday, April 12, southbound I-294 lane closures are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 8 p.m. and closure of a third lane at 11 p.m. for work to prepare to move southbound traffic. Three lanes of southbound traffic are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13.

Overnight Tuesday, April 13, southbound I-294 lane closures are scheduled to begin again at 7 p.m. with a single lane closure, followed by closure of a second lane at 8 p.m. and closure of a third lane at 11 p.m. Lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, with southbound traffic shifted onto the northbound side of the road.

Access to and from 75th Street I-55 and Wolf Road will remain open during construction. Southbound traffic traveling to 75th Street should be prepared to access to the exit in advance of the ramp.

Additional lane closures will be scheduled as needed throughout the construction season.



Construction 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.

This work is part the southern section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95th Street that includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road and reconstructing shoulders for adding Flex Lanes. It is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Construction in the southern section of Central Tri-State Tollway Project started in 2019 with the Mile Long Bridge Project. Work to prepare for mainline reconstruction and widening began in 2020, including work to reconstruct the Archer Avenue Interchange. Work in this section also includes working with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways and the Village of Justice to build a new interchange at 88th/Cork Avenue. In addition, improvements will also be made to local crossroad bridges, including Willow Springs Road and 5th Avenue, and the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is also scheduled to be rebuilt.

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 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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