



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED THROUGH DECEMBER ON SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE (I-294) PROJECT**

*Winter work scheduled to continue between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street as weather permits*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway has begun work to shift traffic on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project’s southern section between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street into winter configuration with construction work scheduled to continue as weather allows.

“The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We are making every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits in areas where work will continue through the winter months.”

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 closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Work to shift traffic will take place during overnight and off-peak daytime hours to minimize the impact on drivers and is dependent on the weather. Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

Traffic shifts on I-294 are underway and scheduled to be completed in segments throughout December. Traffic will remain in this configuration until spring 2022.

- Between 95<sup>th</sup> Street and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street northbound traffic will be shifted on to new pavement.
- Between LaGrange Road and 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, southbound I-294 traffic will be shifted first to remove the split configuration and restore normal lane configuration, followed by the return of normal lane configuration for northbound I-294 traffic by the end of the year.
- Between the I-55 ramps to 75<sup>th</sup> Street traffic shifts will be put in place in the southbound lanes first, followed by northbound lanes. In addition, on I-55 all lanes in both directions will be returned to normal configuration by the end of the year.
- On the Mile Long Bridge, traffic in both directions will remain in its current four lane configuration. Two lanes on the ramps connecting I-294 to I-55 will remain open. The ramp from southbound I-294 to eastbound Archer Avenue (Illinois Route 171) will remain closed.

Ongoing construction work scheduled to continue over the winter includes construction of the new southbound Mile Long Bridge, as well as storm sewer, roadway lighting and signage work along I-294.

Work in this southern section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new Mile Long Bridge and I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87<sup>th</sup> Street and Roberts Road, as well as

reconstructing shoulders including adding Flex Lanes and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Bridgeview, Village of Burr Ridge, City of Countryside, City of Hickory Hills, Village of Hodgkins, Village of Indian Head, Village of Justice, Village of Willow Springs 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](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> 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 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.