



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 13, 2022**

## **NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OPENS OVER CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) FOR HINSDALE AND WESTERN SPRINGS**

*New bridge near 47<sup>th</sup> Street constructed to accommodate I-294 reconstruction and widening project*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Officials from the Illinois Tollway, Western Springs and Hinsdale announced today that walkers, runners and bikers will have access to the new Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Pedestrian Bridge adjacent to 47<sup>th</sup> Street on Wednesday, December 14.

The Illinois Tollway is turning over the new pedestrian bridge crossing to local officials ahead of schedule, offering a new convenient connection between Veeck Park and Spring Rock Park and community pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists. Final work needed to open the bridge will be completed this week.

“We are pleased that the Illinois Tollway is working to keep communities connected while improving access to local parks and resources,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse. “This is a great example of the efforts the Tollway is making to keep people at the forefront of planning and construction as we rebuild the Central Tri-State Tollway.”

The pedestrian bridge crossing was relocated from its location near Ogden Avenue to the new location adjacent to 47<sup>th</sup> Street selected by the villages following public input from residents and both village boards in 2019 to accommodate the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway Project.

“The village board consistently looks for ways to make Western Springs more walkable and bike friendly,” said Western Springs Village President Alice Gallagher. “This bridge is the result of collaborative planning between the village, the Western Springs Park District, the Tollway and Hinsdale. It is an excellent example of how transportation infrastructure improvements can provide more multi-modal travel options and better connect neighboring communities.”

“We are very appreciative of the Tollway’s willingness to acknowledge the value of a pedestrian bridge to both Hinsdale and Western Springs residents,” added Hinsdale Village President Tom Cauley. “The attractive new bridge, which connects parks in the two communities, will no doubt be a favorite of bike riders, walker and joggers.”

The Tollway started construction on the I-294 Pedestrian Bridge Project in September 2021, with the new prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge structure originally scheduled to be moved into place in spring 2023.



Site selection, design and construction planning for the I-294 Pedestrian Bridge was developed in consultation with Hinsdale, Western Springs and the Western Springs Park District. The bridge design features a steel structure and ADA accessible sloped ramps with ornamental vertical fencing painted black. The Tollway worked with the municipalities and the park district to incorporate design details with logos to identify each village incorporated on pedestals at the base of both side of the pedestrian bridge.

In addition, as part of the project, landscape restoration and improvements will be included. The Tollway has worked with the municipalities and the Western Springs Park District to incorporate additional trees and landscaping at the new location including native species, shrubs, shade trees and ornamental trees, providing seasonal interest as pedestrians use the new bridge and pass through the parks.

Throughout construction, local residents continued to have access to a pedestrian bridge over I-294 near Ogden Avenue. Removal of the old structure and additional wrap-up work on the project by the Tollway is scheduled to be complete in 2023.

Information about the I-294 Pedestrian Bridge Project is available in the [Projects section](#) on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com). Construction in this area has been coordinated with the Village of Hinsdale, Village of Western Springs, Western Springs Park District, as well as the Lyons Township School District.



Relocation of the I-294 Pedestrian Bridge is necessary to accommodate the Tollway's improvements on I-294. 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.

### 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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