



Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad over the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Hinsdale and Western Springs, to accommodate the widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

In 2022, the Tollway is scheduled to complete removal of the bypass railroad bridge that was used to allow BNSF and Metra to maintain uninterrupted freight and commuter rail operations during bridge reconstruction.

Additional work this year includes constructing permanent retaining walls, shoulder paving, as well as pavement work on Burlington Avenue. In addition, roadway lighting and landscaping work is scheduled.

Work on the BNSF Railway Bridge Project began in 2019 and is scheduled to be complete in 2022.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Illinois Tollway is removing the existing three-track BNSF Railway Bridge and replacing it with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of the Tollway underneath.

In 2020, the Tollway completed construction of a temporary bypass bridge that provided for uninterrupted freight and commuter rail operations during bridge reconstruction. Construction of the new, longer BNSF Railway Bridge structure was completed and opened for use by Metra and BNSF trains in 2021.

Customer Impacts

On I-294, lane closures and traffic shifts will be necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate construction.

Whenever possible, the Tollway uses traffic shifts and shoulders to keep as many lanes open during peak hours as were available before construction.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to scheduled lane closures, traffic patterns and work zone speed limits.

PURPOSE

The \$96 million BNSF Railroad Bridge Project is part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Project. Reconstruction of the BNSF Railway Bridge will allow for increased traffic capacity on I-294 and improve the overall driving experience through one of the busiest sections of the Tollway.

As the bridge is expected to last for decades to come, the bridge is being designed to accommodate foreseeable future needs to the greatest extent possible.

On average, approximately 104 Metra and Amtrak trains cross this bridge daily, as well as 52 daily freight trains.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with the villages of Hinsdale, Western Springs and Western Springs Park District, as well as police and fire departments.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and the railroad remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Work 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

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fine, 2-year suspension of driving privileges and jail time, in extreme cases.

Visit the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at illinoistollway.com.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In addition to reducing the cost of this work, reuse of these materials reduces the need for virgin asphalt materials and reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and the volume of material that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

GETTING TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

- illinoistollway.com – Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.
- [Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.
- [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.