



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 2, 2023**

## **NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS SCHEDULED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) WITH OVERNIGHT RAMP AND LANE CLOSURES TO SHIFT TRAFFIC**

*Traffic shift on southbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and Butterfield Road will impact access to eastbound I-290 and westbound I-88*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work to shift traffic in both directions on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is scheduled to begin this weekend with overnight lane closures and ramp detours as part of the Illinois Tollway’s ongoing construction at the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294 and reconstruction and widening on I-294.

Traffic shifts on northbound I-294 between North Avenue and Grand Avenue and southbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and Butterfield Road are necessary to provide a safe work zone and accommodate traffic during the next phase of construction. Delays are expected and the new traffic pattern on southbound I-294 will impact access to eastbound I-290 and westbound I-88.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the new traffic patterns. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

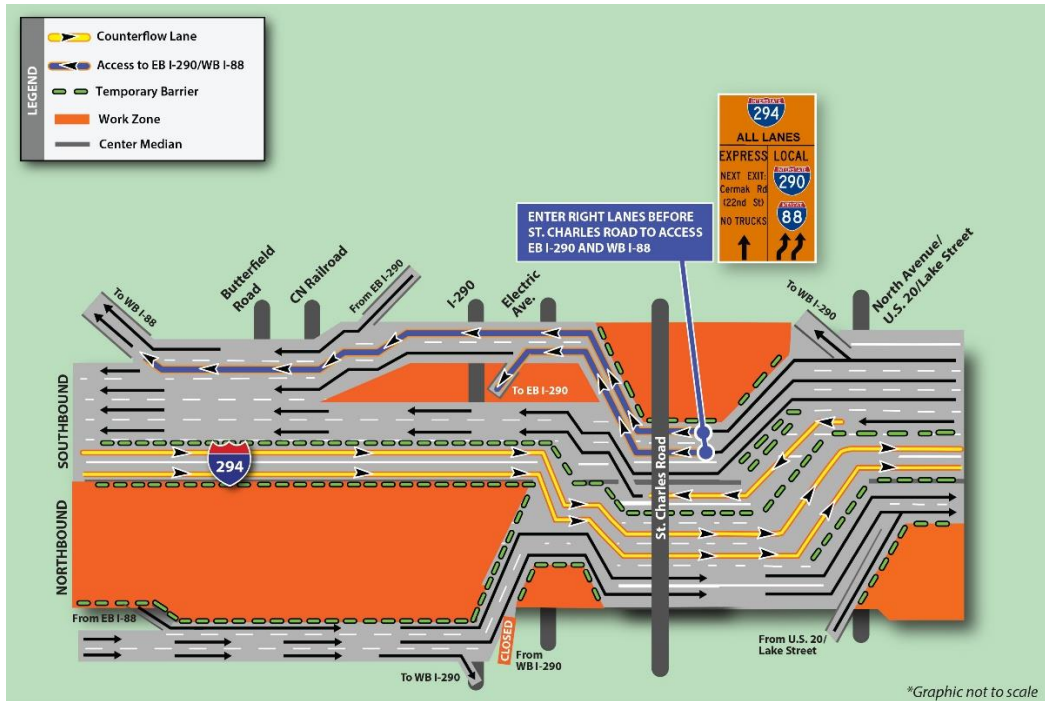
### **Southbound I-294 traffic shift begins August 5**

The new traffic pattern on southbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and the Butterfield Road will maintain four lanes with traffic shifted into a split configuration to allow for a work zone. The new traffic pattern will have two left lanes continuing on the I-294 mainline and two right lanes directed onto the auxiliary lanes providing access to exit ramps for eastbound I-290 and for westbound I-88 before reconnecting with the southbound I-294 mainline.

Traffic must stay in the two right lanes and pay attention to signage to access eastbound I-290 and westbound I-88. To accommodate the new work zone, after the new traffic pattern is in place traffic must use the two right lanes beginning north of St. Charles Road to access the eastbound I-290 ramp and the westbound I-88 ramp

The two left lanes will be express lanes with the next available exit at Cermak Road.

This traffic pattern on southbound I-294 will be in place into 2026.



To shift southbound I-294 traffic into this new configuration, overnight on Saturday, August 5, lane closures will be scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and be complete by 5 a.m. the following morning. Additionally, the ramps connecting eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290 are scheduled to close at 11 p.m. All lanes and the ramps will reopen by 5 a.m. Sunday, August 6. Detours will be posted.

*NOTE: If the work cannot take place overnight on Saturday, August 5, the overnight lane and ramp closures will be rescheduled for Monday, August 7, and Tuesday, August 8, beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 5 a.m. the following morning. Detours will be posted.*

The detour for the ramps connecting eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and westbound I-88, will route traffic to continue eastbound on I-290 to exit at northbound Mannheim Road (US Route 12/20/45) and through the interchange onto westbound I-290 to access southbound I-294 and westbound I-88.



The detour for the ramp connecting southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290, will route traffic to Cermak Road and through interchange to northbound I-294 to access eastbound I-290.



### Northbound I-294 traffic shift begins August 8

Work to shift traffic is scheduled to begin Tuesday, August 8, on northbound I-294 between North Avenue and Grand Avenue as work continues to reconstruct and widen I-294. Overnight lane closures on northbound I-294 will be scheduled between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following morning, with up to two lanes closed at a time in order to shift traffic.

The new traffic pattern will maintain four northbound lanes on I-294 with the right two lanes of traffic shifted onto newly constructed pavement. Two additional northbound lanes will remain on the southbound side of I-294 in a counterflow configuration.

Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer of 2024.

### 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. On I-294, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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 152,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first 11 years of *Move Illinois* are 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.

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