



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2016

**OVERNIGHT LANE, RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK
ON THE REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-88) IN AURORA**

*Temporary closures planned for bridge beam placement as part of
Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane and ramp closures are scheduled next week on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) for bridge reconstruction work as part of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project in Aurora.

The overnight closures are needed to accommodate the placement of bridge beams for the new Farnsworth Avenue Bridge carrying traffic over I-88. Bridge beam placement will take place during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The temporary closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate the work at the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange.

Weather permitting, on Monday, September 12, overnight lane closures are scheduled for the placement of bridge beams over the eastbound side of I-88.

- On I-88, one eastbound lane on I-88 is scheduled to close at 7 p.m. followed by a second eastbound lane closure at 10 p.m. and intermittent, full closures of eastbound I-88, each lasting 15 minutes, will begin at 10:30 p.m.
- On Farnsworth Avenue, one southbound lane is scheduled to close overnight beginning at 7 p.m.
- The ramp carrying southbound Farnsworth Avenue to eastbound I-88 is scheduled to close at 10 p.m. No detour will be posted. Drivers will be able to access eastbound I-88 via the Eola Road Interchange to the east.

All lanes and the ramp from southbound Farnsworth Avenue to eastbound I-88 are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13, ahead of the morning rush hour.

On Tuesday, September 13, similar overnight lane closures on westbound I-88 and on Farnsworth Avenue will be scheduled, to complete bridge beam placement over the westbound side of I-88. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, ahead of the morning rush hour.

In addition to the temporary overnight closures, as part of the Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project the exit ramp connecting eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and the entrance ramp connecting northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88 are closed for removal with traffic detoured through late fall.

On Farnsworth Avenue, all traffic is currently shifted into the southbound lanes to accommodate the removal and reconstruction of the northbound side of the bridge over I-88. Two lanes remain open for southbound traffic and one lane is available for drivers traveling northbound on Farnsworth Avenue. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through the end of the year.

The Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Aurora, Aurora Township, DuPage and Kane Counties, local fire and police departments.

In 2016, the Illinois Tollway is removing and reconstructing the northbound side of the bridge and removing the two ramps carrying traffic from eastbound I-88 to northbound Farnsworth Avenue and from northbound Farnsworth Avenue to westbound I-88. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

Construction information about the [Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project](#) is available in the “Projects by Roadway” section in the Construction/Planning section on the Tollway’s website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The Farnsworth Interchange Project

The \$19 million Farnsworth Avenue Interchange Project is reconstructing the Farnsworth Avenue Bridge over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora to extend the life of the interchange, increase traffic capacity and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. More than 30,000 vehicles use this interchange daily.

The project includes the construction of a new bridge, ramp reconfiguration, installation of energy-efficient LED lighting and the addition of a bicycle and pedestrian path across the bridge. Work on the project is scheduled to begin this spring and to be complete in 2017.

The project includes the removal of the existing four-span bridge and construction of a new, two-span bridge that will provide two lanes of traffic with full shoulders in both directions. In addition, the bridge, which will be raised to meet Tollway standards, will also be lengthened to accommodate future improvements as needed on I-88.

Reconstruction of the bridge will also provide the opportunity to include new aesthetic enhancements on the bridge walls, as well as black powder-coat fencing and traffic signals.

The project will also include local roadway improvements, including the addition of a barrier-separated bicycle and pedestrian path on the east side of the bridge. The addition of the path and the new interchange ramp configuration will provide public access to cross I-88 along Farnsworth Avenue.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and other area roadways remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency’s overall commitment to roadway 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 Farnsworth Avenue, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season. On I-88, a 55 mph work zone speed limit will be in place.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 fine and a 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

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

- www.illinoistollway.com – Construction/Planning section, Tollway Trip Calculator, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information
- 1-800-TOLL-FYI – Daily lane closure information

- www.travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- www.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.

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 292 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), 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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