**Newsletter Copy**

**SHORT - Illinois Tollway’s SmartRoad goes live in September**

The Illinois Tollway is introducing 16 miles of SmartRoad on I-90: Technology for a safer, more efficient 21st century roadway.

Overhead signs installed every half mile between Barrington Road and the Kennedy Expressway are in place to provide drivers with real-time information incidents advisories, lane closures and transit services. The signs will remain blank – indicating the road is clear – until there is information to share with drivers.

SmartRoad has been built with flexibility for the future, so moving forward, the Tollway is prepared to accommodate the technology needed to communicate directly with vehicles.

For more information about the Tollway’s new SmartRoad on I-90 please go to the website here [https://www.illinoistollway.com/documents/20184/582259/SmartRoad+One+Pager.pdf/102f501d-e64b-4f80-8797-ecbb98a241c8](https://www.illinoistollway.com/documents/20184/582259/SmartRoad%2BOne%2BPager.pdf/102f501d-e64b-4f80-8797-ecbb98a241c8)

**LONG -** **Illinois Tollway’s SmartRoad to launch in September**

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Overhead signs installed every half mile between Barrington Road and the Kennedy Expressway are in place to provide drivers with real-time information incidents advisories, lane closures and transit services. The signs will remain blank – indicating the road is clear – until there is information to share with drivers.

SmartRoad signs will activate to direct drivers in the event of an incident, providing information up to a mile prior to the event.

* The lane control signs over the road display a red “X” when the lane is closed ahead.
* A diagonal yellow arrow indicate that vehicles need to change lanes
* A downward yellow arrow will indicate that vehicles need to drive with caution.
* A downward green arrow indicates the lane is clear.

To accommodate transit, a Flex Lane – the inside shoulder of the roadway – will be used by Pace buses on the I-90 SmartRoad when traffic warrants. The Flex Lane can be used in an emergency as any other roadway shoulder. All Pace buses in the Flex Lane will be safely directed around an emergency in coordination with our traffic operations center.

The Tollway’s investment in the corridor serves customers today and enables flexibility for the future. The roadway includes flexible infrastructure that will allow new features to be added as developed or available to accommodate the technology needed to communicate with vehicles in the future.

In a technology driven future of connected and autonomous vehicles, SmartRoad enables us to continue to meet the needs of our customers while incorporating the advancements in safety technology.

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