



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## LONG-TERM BRIDGE CLOSURE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SOUTH FIRST STREET IN DEKALB

*Local road bridge over Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) scheduled to close for three months*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin repair work next week on the local crossroad bridge carrying South First Street traffic over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the start of construction and closures. The full closure is necessary because the local crossroad bridge over I-88 is too narrow to accommodate staged construction traffic while safely completing the work.

On Monday, April 1, the South First Street Bridge is scheduled to close for three months. A detour will be posted routing traffic to Annie Glidden Road, Lincoln Highway, Fourth Street and Harvestore Drive to access South First Street. Drivers coming from I-88 will also be able to access South First Street via the Peace Road Interchange to the east utilizing the posted truck routes.



At the South First Street Bridge, the existing bridge deck will be removed and replaced with a new, reinforced concrete deck on precast concrete beams. The new bridge will provide one lane in each direction with shoulders on either side and will be slightly wider with increased clearance above the Tollway to meet current design standards. This work is scheduled to be complete this summer.

All work is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, City of DeKalb, DeKalb County, DeKalb Township, as well as local fire and police departments.

The South First Street Bridge is being repaired to extend the life of the structure. The work is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

### **Work Zone Safety**

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and local crossroads 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.

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 \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 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 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first seven years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway Project and reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and planning for emerging projects.

### **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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