



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OVERNIGHT LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK ON LAGRANGE ROAD FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) WORK IN WILLOW SPRINGS AND JUSTICE

Temporary, full closures planned for utility work as part of bridge reconstruction

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Temporary, overnight lane closures will be scheduled next week on LaGrange Road at the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Willow Springs and Justice for utility relocation work as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway Project.

Electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers. The temporary closures are necessary to provide a work zone and safely accommodate the removal of utility cables over the local roadway. The work will be scheduled during overnight hours to minimize the impact on traffic.

“The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We work to limit lane closures to temporary overnight to minimize the impact of construction on drivers.”

Weather permitting, the week of October 28, LaGrange Road in both directions is scheduled to be reduced to a single lane, with intermittent, full closures of LaGrange Road, each lasting 15 minutes, beginning at midnight. All lanes on LaGrange Road are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning.

Daily lane closures will continue as needed on LaGrange Road into 2020 for work associated with bridge construction. Additional 15-minute full closures will also be needed again later this year.

The Mile Long Bridge is one of the first major construction segments for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project with an estimated cost of between \$550 million and \$650 million. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel across the Mile Long Bridge daily. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

The Mile Long Bridge Project includes building two, new side-by-side bridge structures near Countryside, Hodgkins, Willow Springs and Justice to carry I-294 northbound and southbound traffic over three water resources and local roads, a major distribution center for UPS, a segment of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the Canadian National Railroad.

The new 4,800-foot-long bridge structures will increase capacity from four lanes to five lanes in each direction to accommodate reconstruction and widening of the Tri-State Tollway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street. In addition, the inside shoulders on the bridge will be built to serve as Flex Lanes to provide for transit, assist emergency vehicles and serve as an alternate lane to reduce traffic congestion when warranted.

The design of the new bridge structures took into consideration the sensitive aquatic ecosystem, navigable waterways and existing railroad and roadway operations underneath the structure. Each of the new structures will have fewer piers to reduce the environmental impact on the waterways and industrial areas below. Each bridge will have 27 spans supported by 26 piers, compared to the existing

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structures each with 53 piers. The spans will be made up of a total of nearly 600 steel or concrete beams of various lengths.

The Illinois Tollway is coordinating work on the Mile Long Bridge Project with the Village of Hodgkins, Village of Countryside, Village of Willow Springs, Village of Justice, Cook County, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), IDNR Office of Water Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, as well as numerous businesses located near the Mile Long Bridge.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com.

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.

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. 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* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st 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 planning for emerging projects, including 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.