



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 3, 2023**

## **NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) BETWEEN GRAND AVENUE AND WOLF ROAD**

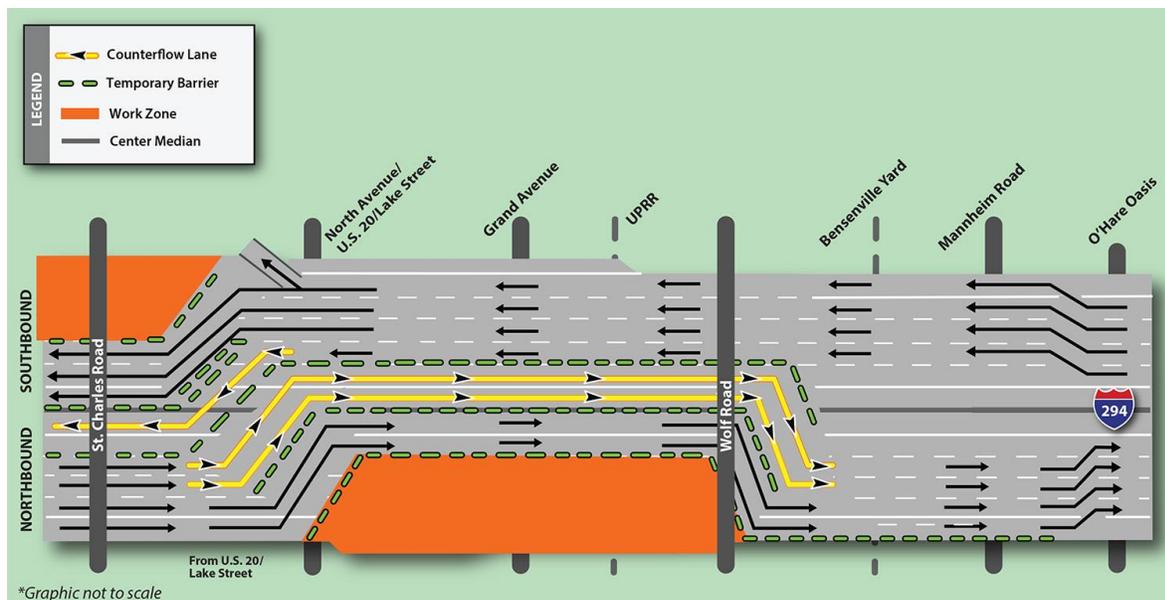
*Two northbound lanes to shift with two remaining in a counterflow configuration on the southbound side of I-294*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – A traffic shift is scheduled this week on the northbound Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Grand Avenue and Wolf Road for ongoing roadway reconstruction. Four lanes will remain open in each direction.

Traffic shifts are necessary to provide a safe work zone for median construction and accommodate traffic. 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.

Overnight Friday, October 6, lane closures will be scheduled starting at 8 p.m. on northbound I-294 between Grand Avenue and Wolf Road with traffic reduced to a single lane at times to complete the traffic shift. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Saturday, October 7, with two lanes of northbound traffic shifted to the left with a work zone on the right. The two additional lanes of northbound traffic will remain on the southbound side in a counterflow configuration. Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer of 2024.

If work cannot be completed during this time, backup closures will be scheduled at a later date.



Traffic shifts and counterflow lanes will continue through 2024 as work continues to reconstruct and widen I-294, including rebuilding the bridges carrying I-294 over North Avenue, Grand

Avenue and the Union Pacific Railroad and constructing the ramps that will connect I-294 to the new I-490 Tollway.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the City of Elmhurst, Village of Franklin Park and City of Northlake, as well as local fire and police departments.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

Work in this section includes construction of the new I-490/I-294 Interchange with two new ramp bridges that will provide access for the new I-490 Tollway and a new southbound exit ramp from I-294 to County Line Road between Grand Avenue and North Avenue. Improvements as part of this project also include guardrail, drainage, lighting and signage installation, as well as landscaping improvements.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.

### **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.

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 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.