



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 17, 2023**

## **LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SHIFTS BEGIN THIS WEEK ON SOUTHERN SECTION OF CENTRAL TRI-STATE (I-294) PROJECT**

*Winter work scheduled to continue between 95<sup>th</sup> Street and I-55 as weather permits*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway has begun work to shift traffic into winter configuration on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project's southern section between I-55 and 95th Street to accommodate the continuation of construction work as weather allows. Overnight lane closures will be needed to complete these traffic shifts.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to changes in traffic patterns. Up-to-date information regarding closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Traffic shifts on I-294 are underway and scheduled to be completed in segments throughout November and December. Work to shift traffic will take place during overnight and off-peak daytime hours to minimize the impact on drivers and is dependent on the weather.

Beginning the weekend of Friday, November 17, traffic in both directions between LaGrange Road and I-55 is scheduled to begin shifting back into its normal lane configuration.

Once that shift is complete, northbound traffic between 95<sup>th</sup> Street and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Street Toll Plaza is scheduled to shift back into its normal lane configuration. Southbound traffic in this area is already in its normal lane configuration.

Traffic will remain in this configuration until spring 2024. Five lanes of traffic will be maintained through winter in both directions on I-294 between 95<sup>th</sup> Street and I-55.

Road reconstruction and bridge work are scheduled to continue over the winter through the entire southern segment of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street.

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).

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Bridgeview, City of Hickory Hills, Village of Justice, City of Countryside, Village of Willow Springs, as well as local fire and police departments.

Work in south section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95<sup>th</sup> Street includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road, as well as reconstructing roadway shoulders including adding Flex Lanes. Construction in the southern section of Central Tri-State Tollway Project started in 2019 with the Mile Long Bridge Project and is scheduled for completion in 2024.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th 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. 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 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.

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