



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK ON CENTRAL SECTION OF CENTRAL TRI-STATE (I-294) PROJECT

Winter work scheduled to continue between I-55 and Cermak Road as weather permits

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin shifting traffic into winter configuration on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project between I-55 and Cermak Road this week to accommodate the continuation of construction work as weather allows. Multiple nights of overnight lane and ramp closures will be needed to complete this traffic shift. Delays are expected.

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. 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.

Beginning Wednesday, December 13, work is scheduled to begin on northbound I-294 between I-55 and Cermak Road to prepare to shift traffic to the right onto newly constructed pavement. Multiple nights of overnight lane closures will be scheduled with lane closures beginning at 7 p.m., with up to three lanes scheduled to close for overnight work.

During the lane closures, the ramps from northbound I-294 to the Hinsdale Oasis and to Ogden Avenue are scheduled to close nightly. No detours will be posted. In addition, as a result of the northbound I-294 lane closures, traffic entering from I-55 will not have access to the Oasis.

Overnight Friday, December 15 and Sunday, December 17, the ramp connecting I-55 to northbound I-294 is also scheduled to be reduced to one lane starting at 8 p.m.

Lanes and ramps are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. each weekday morning ahead of rush hour traffic. On the weekends, the ramps are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. and all lanes by 10 a.m.

Throughout the weekend, as work continues to shift mainline traffic, drivers on northbound I-294 will need to be in one of the two right lanes to access the Hinsdale Oasis, Ogden Avenue and westbound Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88).

In addition, the ramp connecting Ogden Avenue in both directions to northbound I-294, which has been closed and detoured since early November, is scheduled to reopen overnight Saturday, December 16.

Once the traffic shift is complete, the counterflow will be removed on northbound I-294 and all four lanes of traffic are scheduled to be shifted onto newly constructed pavement by 5 a.m. on Monday, December 18. Southbound traffic in this area will remain in its current configuration through winter.

Traffic is scheduled to remain in this configuration until spring 2024, with additional off-peak and overnight closures scheduled as needed. During the winter, construction will include roadway, bridge and utility work as weather allows.

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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.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, Village of Western Springs, Village of Indian Head Park, Village of Hinsdale, Village of Oak Brook, Village of Burr Ridge as well as local fire and police departments.

Mainline construction between St. Charles Road and I-55 is currently scheduled for 2023 through 2026. The Tollway will rebuild the roadway with widening up to six lanes in both directions in some areas, deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as deliver reconstructed shoulders including adding Flex Lanes.

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 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 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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