



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RAMP CLOSURES SCHEDULED AT ARCHER AVENUE INTERCHANGE FOR CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT

Four-month detour of ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to southbound I-294 needed for ramp reconstruction

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is scheduled to begin a long-term closure next week for the ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294), as work begins to reconstruct that ramp as part of the Tollway’s Central Tri-State Tollway Project. The ramp closure and posted detour are scheduled to be in place into July.

The ramp closure will be the first of several long-term ramp closures planned during the 2021 construction season as the Illinois Tollway continues to work on improvements to bridges, ramps and roadway in the Archer Avenue area to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. Full closures will be scheduled as needed in areas where the Tollway cannot accommodate traffic and provide a safe work zone.

“The Illinois Tollway understands safety is just as important as access for drivers who use the Tollway to reach work and home, and we thank them for their patience,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “Closing ramps will allow us to safely reconstruct the ramps and will help us to complete this work in less time and minimize the inconvenience to customers.”

Electronic message and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers on Archer Avenue and I-294 to the construction work zones, ramp closures and detours. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s Daily Construction Alerts. All work is weather dependent.

Beginning at 7 a.m. on Monday, March 22, the ramp connecting eastbound Archer Avenue to southbound I-294 is scheduled to close with a posted detour for four months to accommodate ramp reconstruction. The posted detour will direct traffic to continue eastbound on Archer Avenue to Oak Grove Avenue and then back along westbound Archer Avenue to access the ramp to southbound I-294.



Additional ramp closures in the area will include a short-term closure of the ramp from southbound LaGrange to southbound I-294 for several nights in May and a long-term closure of the ramp connecting westbound Archer Avenue/northbound LaGrange Road to southbound I-294 for up to two months.

In addition, single-night detours on additional ramps in the area are also scheduled in 2021 as part of ongoing bridge work at the interchange.

In 2021 construction work is also scheduled to begin to build a new ramp that will connect westbound Archer Avenue to northbound I-294. The ramp is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year, but will not be open to the public until 2023 when reconstruction of the intersection of Archer Avenue and Oak Grove is scheduled to be complete.

To accommodate the rebuilding and widening of I-294, the Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the eastbound and westbound Archer Avenue Bridges over I-294, the eastbound Archer Avenue Bridge over 79th Street and the bridge carrying westbound Archer Avenue over the ramp connecting southbound LaGrange Road to I-294. Ramp and local road improvements on Archer Avenue and 79th Street will also be included as part of the construction. Work also includes drainage and lighting improvements and landscaping.

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 Justice and Village of Willow Springs as well as local fire and police departments.

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 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first nine 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 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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