



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2021

Contact: Dan Rozek
630-241-6800 ext. 6392
drozek@getipass.com

GRAND AVENUE DETOUR AND OVERNIGHT LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED IN MAY ON LOCAL ROADS UNDER THE TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) IN ELMHURST AND NORTHLAKE

Temporary lane closures needed to safely accommodate bridge beam removal

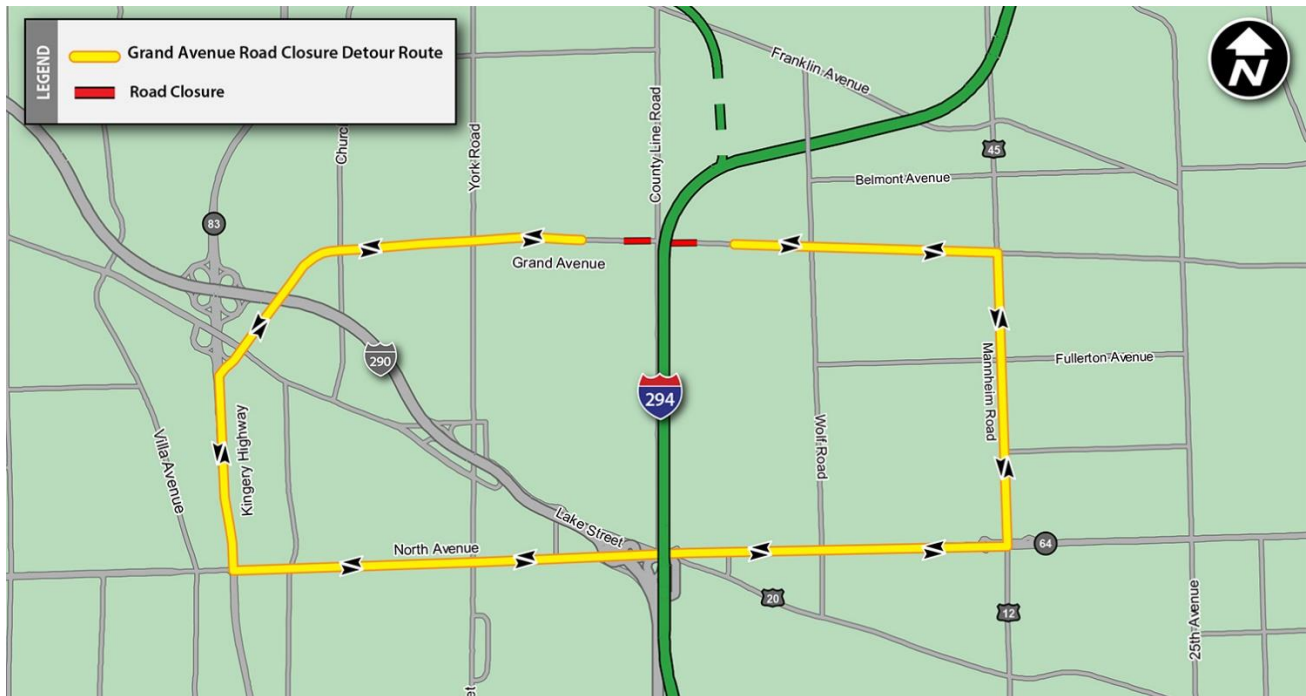
DOWNERS GROVE, IL – A detour of Grand Avenue and temporary overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin this week on North Avenue, Lake Street and the I-290 Frontage Road beneath the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) for bridge beam removal associated with the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the detour, lane closures and full-stops. All work is weather dependent.

“The Illinois Tollway is committed to roadway safety for both motorists and workforces throughout construction, which is part of our overall pledge to roadway safety,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We ask motorists to be focused in work zones by watching for changing traffic patterns and using caution, particularly when workers are present.”

Beginning at 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, Grand Avenue between Northwest Avenue and County Line Road will be closed for bridge beam removal. A detour will be put in place routing westbound Grand Avenue south on U.S. Route 12/U.S. Route 45 (Mannheim Road), west on Illinois Route 64 (North Avenue) and north on Illinois Route 83 to reach Grand Avenue, and routing eastbound traffic south on Illinois Route 83, east on Illinois Route 64 (North Avenue), north on U.S. Route 12/U.S. Route 45 (Mannheim Road) to reach Grand Avenue.

All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. on Friday, May 21. If work cannot be completed during this time, a detour for a second night will be scheduled overnight Friday, May 21.



Beginning Thursday, May 20 and continuing as needed through the end of May, overnight lane closures, including 15-minute full closures, are also scheduled on North Avenue, Lake Street and the I-290 Frontage Road under I-294. One lane in both directions is scheduled to close at 6 p.m. each night, intermittent, full closures of the local roads, each lasting 15 minutes, will begin at 10 p.m. All lanes on the local roads are scheduled to reopen by 6 a.m. the following morning.

Additional closures, including 15-minute full closures, will be needed again this summer for bridge beam placement work. Ongoing overnight lane closures are scheduled to continue over the next two years on these roadways for bridge removal and construction associated with the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway Illinois Tollway and the construction of the I-490 I-294 Interchange.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, City of Elmhurst and City of Northlake, as well as local fire and police departments.

The new I-490/I-294 Interchange will consist 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 new I-294 Interchange is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

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 Tollway's I-490/I-294 Interchange 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 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 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.

#