



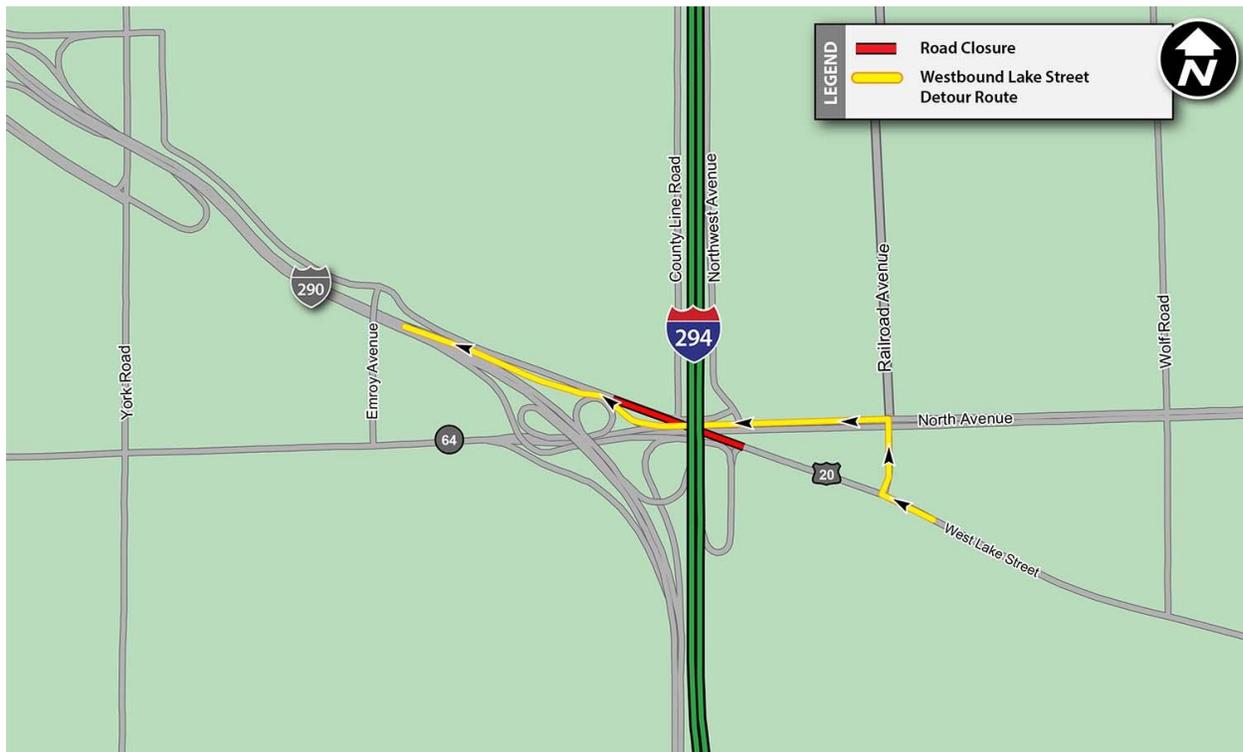
ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LONG-TERM LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON LAKE STREET AND NORTH AVENUE IN ELMURST AND NORTHLAKE FOR ILLINOIS TOLLWAY IMPROVEMENTS *Cook County leading local roadway and bridge construction supporting the Illinois Tollway North Avenue Interchange and Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Projects*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Long-term lane closures are scheduled to begin this week and continue through the end of the year on westbound Lake Street and eastbound North Avenue in Elmhurst and Northlake for Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways-led local roadway and bridge construction to accommodate the Illinois Tollway’s North Avenue Interchange Project on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Beginning Wednesday morning, October 6, the westbound lanes on Lake Street will be closed to traffic at Railroad Avenue. A detour will be posted routing westbound Lake Street traffic north on Railroad Avenue and west on North Avenue (Illinois Route 64). All lanes on eastbound Lake Street will remain open to traffic.



In addition, eastbound North Avenue under I-294 will be reduced to two lanes. All lanes on westbound North Avenue will remain open to traffic. The entrance ramp to northbound I-294 will remain open to traffic and be accessible from Lake Street.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the lane closures and detour. The roadway lane closures and detour are necessary to provide a work zone for construction and safely accommodate traffic. All work is weather dependent.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the City of Elmhurst and the 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 North Avenue Interchange Project at I-294 are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com as well as on the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways website at maps.cookcountyil.gov/hwyproject.

Ongoing lane closures and traffic shifts are scheduled to continue over the next three years on these local roadways to allow Cook County to complete this work including pavement reconstruction, bridge work, watermain reconstruction, drainage installation, and traffic signal work.

The project will include work to realign a portion of County Line Road to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and for the North Avenue Interchange Project that includes construction of a new ramp connecting southbound I-294 to County Line Road to provide new access to North Avenue and Lake Street to help reduce congestion at the interchange and on local roads.

In addition, the North Avenue and Lake Street (U.S. Route 20) intersection will be reconfigured to improve traffic flow and provide new direct access to eastbound North Avenue. Drainage improvements are planned to help alleviate flooding in the area during periods of heavy rainfall. Construction of detention ponds to hold stormwater and the installation of new storm sewers will help address flooding along North Avenue.

In partnership with the Illinois Tollway and cities of Northlake and Elmhurst, Cook County is leading the project's design and will be constructing the project improvements. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

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 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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