



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2023

OVERNIGHT CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR MILE LONG BRIDGE REMOVAL WORK ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Intermittent full closures on I-294 ramp and LaGrange Road needed for ongoing work to remove the old southbound bridge; local road detour of Santa Fe Drive and 75th Street also scheduled

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Overnight closures on LaGrange Road and of the ramps connecting the southbound Central Tri-State (I-294) and 75th Street are scheduled to begin this week for ongoing work to remove the old southbound Mile Long Bridge.

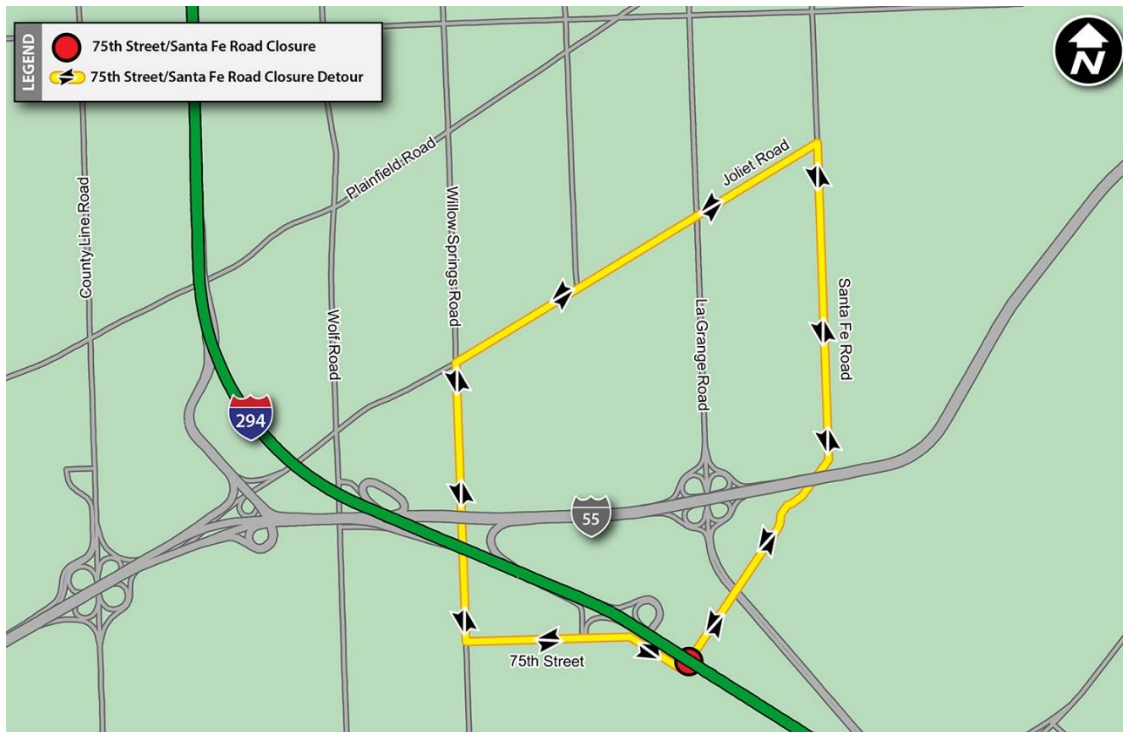
In addition, the intersection of 75th Street and Santa Fe Drive will be closed and detoured for two nights for the bridge beam removal work.

The temporary closures are necessary to safely accommodate the ongoing removal of the old southbound Mile Long Bridge. Electronic message signs and construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to each of the closures and detours. Up-to-date closure information will be posted on the Tollway website in the [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

On Thursday, May 18, intermittent full closures, each lasting 15 minutes, on northbound LaGrange Road will be scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and continue through 4 a.m. the following morning for the installation of protective shielding. Up to two nights of closures are expected.

During the week of May 22, overnight intermittent, 15-minute full-ramp closures will be scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and continue through 5 a.m. the following morning on the ramps connecting the southbound Central Tri-State (I-294) and 75th Street. Up to two nights of closures are expected.

In addition, on Thursday, May 25, closure of the intersection of Santa Fe Drive and 75th Street is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 5 a.m. the following morning. A detour will be posted routing traffic via Joliet Road and Willow Springs Road to access either 75th Street or Santa Fe Drive. Up to two nights of closures are expected.



In 2023, the Tollway is removing of the old southbound Mile Long Bridge and completing the reconstruction of the two ramps connecting northbound I-294 to 75th Street/Willow Springs Road. All work on the project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023.

The \$500 million Mile Long Bridge Project began in summer 2019 and is scheduled through 2023. Work has included construction of two new, wider bridge structures, as well as stormwater, drainage and related infrastructure improvements. Construction on the new northbound bridge was completed in 2020 and on the new southbound bridge in 2022. Currently, up to 150,000 vehicles travel across the Mile Long Bridge daily.

Additional construction information about the Mile Long Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The project is part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, scheduled for 2018 through 2025, is rebuilding and improving the Tollway from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street to provide congestion relief, improve mobility, reconstruct old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and to address regional needs. This work is funded by the Illinois Tollway's *Move Illinois* capital program.

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 and can include 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* 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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