



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2023

FINAL PAVEMENT WORK SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SOUTH SECTION OF THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) PROJECT

Asphalt overlay will complete work to reconstruct and widen Tollway between I-55 and 95th Street

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Pavement work needed to finish roadway reconstruction on the Central Tri-State (I-294) Tollway Project's south section between 95th Street to I-55 is scheduled to begin this week. Asphalt paving will be completed in segments and done during overnight hours to reduce the impact on daily drivers.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to overnight lane and shoulder closures and traffic shifts as needed. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

The mainline roadway widening on I-294 from I-55 to 95th Street is finished with five lanes and new shoulders now open both directions. Completion the roadway reconstruction requires surface preparation and placement of a final asphalt overlay and pavement markings, with work scheduled to be complete in summer 2024. The new composite-pavement design, including an asphalt overlay placed over jointed-concrete pavement, will create a smooth, long-lasting roadway.

Asphalt work will begin the week of July 10 on northbound I-294 with contractors working first between the 83rd Street Toll Plaza and LaGrange Road, then between 95th Street and the 83rd Street Toll Plaza in 2023 and completing the segment between LaGrange Road and I-55 in 2024.

Work on southbound I-294 is scheduled to begin later this year with contractors working first between LaGrange Road and the Plaza 82nd Street Toll Plaza then between 95th Street and the 82nd Street Toll Plaza 39/36 and finishing with work between I-55 and LaGrange Road in 2024.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Village of Indian Head Park, Village of Burr Ridge, Village of Countryside, Village of Hodgkins, Village of Willow Springs, Village of Justice, Village of Hickory Hills, Cook County Department of Transportation, Forest Preserves of Cook County, as well as local fire and police departments.

Work in south section of the Central Tri-State Project between I-55 and 95th Street includes rebuilding and widening the roadway to five lanes in both directions, including construction of new I-294 bridges over I-55, Flagg Creek, 87th Street and Roberts Road, as well as reconstructing roadway shoulders including adding Flex Lanes. Construction in the southern section of Central Tri-State Tollway Project started in 2019 with the Mile Long Bridge Project and is scheduled for completion in 2024.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

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

-more-

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. On I-294, a 45 mph work zone speed limit is in effect throughout the construction season.

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.

###