



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 13, 2024**

## **LAKE STREET CLOSURE, DETOUR SCHEDULED AS PART OF NORTH AVENUE INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION**

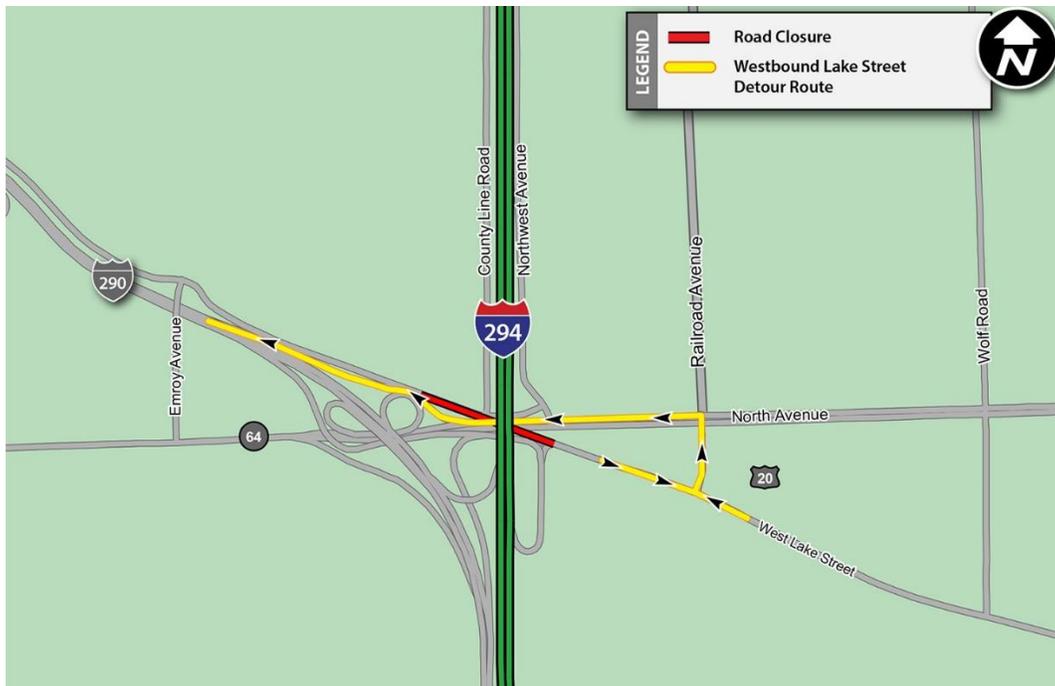
*Closure of westbound Lake Street for Cook County bridge work supporting Illinois Tollway projects*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Beginning Monday, February 26, a portion of westbound Lake Street under the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is scheduled to close through fall with a posted detour for work to reconstruct the Lake Street Bridge as part of ongoing Cook County reconstruction of the North Avenue Interchange in Elmhurst and Northlake. A detour will be posted.

The detour is needed to complete widening of the westbound Lake Street bridge as part of the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways led project that will accommodate the Illinois Tollway's North Avenue Interchange Project on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance of the roadway closure and detour. Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Beginning on Monday, February 26, westbound Lake Street is scheduled to close at I-294. A detour will be posted routing westbound Lake Street traffic to Railroad Avenue, North Avenue/Illinois Route 64, and through the interchange to westbound Lake Street for access to westbound I-290. This detour is scheduled to remain in place through late fall 2024. In addition to the detour, there will also be ongoing lane closures on North Avenue to accommodate the bridge work.



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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](http://www.illinoistollway.com), as well as on the Cook County construction project webpage at [maps.cookcountyil.gov/hwyproject](http://maps.cookcountyil.gov/hwyproject).

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.

Ongoing lane closures and traffic shifts are scheduled to continue over the next two years on these local roadways to allow Cook County to complete the roadway improvements which includes pavement reconstruction, bridge work, watermain reconstruction, drainage installation and traffic signal modifications.

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 in coordination with the Illinois Tollway's 16 year, \$15 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. On Butterfield Road, a 35 mph work zone speed limit is in effect. 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 16-year, \$15 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 165,220 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first 12 years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams

Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway 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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