



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 17, 2025**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR ACTIVE HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON**

*Drivers reminded to stay in disabled vehicles until help arrives  
to ensure they safely complete their travels for Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Drivers who need roadside assistance while traveling on the Illinois Tollway during the busy year-end holidays should put safety first by dialing \*999 and remaining inside their vehicles until help arrives.

The heaviest traffic during the Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years' holidays is expected on Friday, December 19, and Tuesday, December 23, when about 1.8 million vehicles are forecast to travel on the Illinois Tollway system.

Traffic is expected to be substantially lighter on Christmas Day, with about 1.1 million vehicles traveling and on New Year's Day – traditionally the Tollway's quietest travel day—when fewer than 1 million vehicles are expected on the Tollway system. On an average day, 1.6 million daily drivers use the 294-mile Illinois Tollway system.

"The Illinois Tollway wishes all its customers happy holidays and safe travels for Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year, so if you need to pull over while traveling on the Tollway, we remind drivers you should always stay in your car and call \*999 for roadside assistance," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. "Experts agree that your vehicle is the safest place. It's built to protect you in an impact. But if you get out, even just for a second, you are vulnerable to other cars and trucks traveling by."

Drivers who need roadside assistance while traveling on the Tollway should dial \*999 to receive prompt help from Highway Emergency Lane Patrols (H.E.L.P), which the Tollway plans to increase during the holiday season to ensure crews quickly locate and assist stranded drivers by changing tires, jump-starting batteries, dispensing fuel and arranging for tows.

When calling, please provide as much information about your location as possible to ensure rapid assistance including identify the roadway, direction of travel and nearest milepost or cross street/exit. While waiting for help to arrive, park safely on the shoulder if possible, turn on your hazard lights and stay in your vehicle. On the Illinois Tollway, help is always just a phone call away.

### **Give Them Distance**

Illinois requires drivers to slow down, move over and change lanes, if possible, to make extra room when approaching ANY vehicle with lights flashing, stopped on a roadway. The Move Over Law is intended to protect first responders and roadway workers, as well as any driver who may be stopped on the side of the road, and, penalties for ignoring the law have been increased to a minimum fine of \$250 for a first-time violation and \$750 for subsequent violations as further deterrent.

### **Drop It and Drive**

Remember to Drop It and Drive because it is illegal to use a hand-held device when driving in Illinois. Sending or receiving a text can take a driver's eyes off the road for 5 seconds—traveling at 55 miles an

hour that's like traveling farther than the length of football field with your eyes closed. Using a cellphone behind the wheel is considered a moving violation even if the vehicle is stopped at a traffic signal.

### **Construction – lane closures suspended for holidays**

Ongoing construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers during holiday travel with any temporary maintenance and construction lane closures suspended from noon on Wednesday, December 24, through 9 a.m. on Monday, December 29, and again from noon on Wednesday, December 31, through 9 a.m. on Monday, January 5. Some construction work zones may remain in place, so drivers are reminded to slow down and obey work zone speed limits.

Areas where Tollway drivers can expect to see ongoing work include:

#### **Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80)**

- Between Ogden Avenue and North Avenue, traffic is shifted in both directions with northbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and North Avenue in a counterflow configuration.
- On southbound I-294, traffic exiting to eastbound I-290 or westbound I-88 must enter the two right lanes north of St. Charles Road.
- The ramps connecting westbound I-290 to northbound I-294, westbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and westbound Roosevelt Road to southbound I-294 are closed and detours are in place.
- The ramp connecting eastbound Golf Road to northbound I-294 is closed. A detour is posted.
- The ramp connecting northbound Halstead Street to southbound I-294 is closed. A detour is posted.

#### **Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)**

- The ramp from eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 traffic is reduced to a single lane.

#### **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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