



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2025

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY WARNS OF DANGERS OF SPEEDING, URGES DRIVERS TO SLOW DOWN WHILE TRAVELING DURING FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

More than 8 million vehicles expected to use the Tollway system over the extended holiday weekend

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is continuing its “If Only” speed awareness campaign by reminding drivers to slow down and follow posted limits when traveling during the Fourth of July holiday to help avoid crashes and protect themselves, road workers, emergency responders and other drivers during the busy holiday weekend.

The Illinois Tollway expects more than 8 million vehicles to travel on its system over the five-day Fourth of July holiday between Wednesday, July 2, and Sunday, July 6. The heaviest travel is expected on Thursday, July 3, when 1.95 million vehicles are projected to use the 294-mile Tollway system, while traffic volume also is expected to be higher than average on Wednesday, July 2, when more than 1.8 million vehicles are forecast to use the Tollway.

On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

“The Tollway is always focused on safety and during the extended Fourth of July holiday we’re reminding drivers that they need to do their part to keep our roads safe by slowing down and always followed posted limits, which gives them more time to react to unexpected situations and avoid crashes,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “Speeding is always dangerous and sometimes deadly, which is why we’ve launched our “If Only” campaign to remind drivers of the tragic consequences speeding can have, not only for drivers, but everyone else who is affected by speed-related crashes. We’re urging drivers traveling over the holiday weekend to slow down to ensure they safely reach their destinations.”

To emphasize the risks of speeding, the Tollway’s [“If Only” campaign](#) includes videos of drivers, medical workers and emergency responders describing the tragic effects of crashes caused by speeding.

The Tollway reminds drivers to take simple steps to avoid the need to speed, including leaving extra time to travel, paying close attention to your speed and avoiding other drivers who traveling too fast.

Drivers should [Dial *999 for roadway assistance](#) from Tollway roadway maintenance crews who are on patrol 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, the Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) supported by GEICO is also available to assist drivers 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Tollway’s motorist aid patrols stand ready to help stranded customers change tires, jump-start batteries, add coolant, dispense fuel, transport customers, move vehicles away from traffic and call for a tow truck. *999 ensures help is just a call away.

[Drop It and Drive](#) because using a hand-held cellphone or device at any time while driving in Illinois is a moving violation, including if the vehicle is stopped at a traffic signal. 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. The fine for a first offense is a maximum of \$75.

-more-

When you see ANY vehicle with flashing lights stopped on a roadway, Illinois requires drivers to [Give Them Distance](#) by slowing down, moving over and changing lanes, if possible, to make extra room. 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.

[Holiday Work Zones](#)

To accommodate holiday travel on the Illinois Tollway, construction activity will be restricted to better serve Tollway customers. Most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures will be suspended from noon on Thursday, July 3, through 9 a.m. on Monday, July 7. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule. All work is weather-dependent.

Areas where ongoing work zones may impact traffic include:

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

- On northbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and North Avenue, traffic is shifted to the left into a counterflow configuration.
- On northbound I-294 between 131st Street and 135th Street, traffic is shifted to the right.
- On northbound I-294 between La Grange Road and 75th Street, traffic is shifted to the right.
- On southbound I-294:
 - From St. Charles Road and Cermak Road: Traffic exiting to eastbound I-290 or westbound I-88 must enter the two right local lanes north of St. Charles Road. The three left lanes are express lanes and can be used by traffic exiting to Cermak Road, Ogden Avenue or I-55.
 - From Cermak Road to Ogden Avenue: Traffic exiting to Ogden Avenue must enter the two right local lanes south of Cermak Road. The two left lanes are express lanes and can be used by traffic exiting to I-55.
 - I-294 access to I-55 in both directions has moved further north and is located between 55th Street and the Hinsdale Oasis. Traffic exiting to I-55 must use the two right lanes. The two left lanes do not have access to I-55. I-294 through traffic can use all lanes.
- On the ramps connecting westbound I-290 to northbound I-294 and westbound Roosevelt Road to southbound I-294 closures and detours are in place.

Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)

- On eastbound I-88 between Illinois Route 23 and the DeKalb Oasis 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.