



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 31, 2025**

## **WORK BEGINS ON NEW ENTRANCE RAMP FOR 88<sup>th</sup>/CORK AVENUE INTERCHANGE PROJECT ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) IN JUSTICE**

*Industrial Drive at 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue will close, business access will be maintained during construction*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – Work is scheduled to begin next week to construct the new entrance ramp from 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue to the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) as part of the 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue Interchange Project that is unlocking new access in Justice and relieving congestion in the area.

On Sunday, August 3, Industrial Drive at 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue is scheduled to close to traffic to begin ramp construction. Access to local businesses will be maintained throughout construction.

Construction signage will be in place in advance to alert drivers to each of the closures. Up-to-date closure information will be posted on the Tollway website in the [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Construction of the new ramp will allow traffic in both directions on 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue to access southbound I-294. Industrial Drive will be permanently closed, and access to businesses in the area will be maintained via a new extension of 81<sup>st</sup> Street.

The \$39 million 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue Interchange Project is a collaboration between the Tollway, the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, the Village of Justice and the Illinois Department of Transportation; and includes construction of new ramps connecting 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) along with local roadway improvements. In addition, the new interchange is designed to be compatible with a new ramp connecting southbound Archer Avenue to northbound I-294, which is being constructed by the Illinois Tollway as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project.

As part of the project, the Illinois Tollway has constructed a new ramp connecting northbound I-294 to 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue and has widened the 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue Bridge over I-294 to provide a southbound left turn lane, as well as additional pedestrian and bicycle access. The project also includes noisewalls, drainage and lighting improvements.

Local road improvements are being built by Cook County and include reconstruction and widening of 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue from south of 81<sup>st</sup> Street to north of Archer Avenue. New frontage roads will be built between 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 81<sup>st</sup> Street and intersection improvements will be made at 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 81<sup>st</sup> Street and at the southbound I-294 entrance ramp. Intersection improvements are also planned for the Archer Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> Street intersections.

Information about the 88<sup>th</sup>/Cork Avenue Interchange Project including maps and construction updates is available on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) in the Projects section.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet

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current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's 15-year, \$14 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 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 13 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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