



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY EXPECTS NEARLY 8.2 MILLION VEHICLES TO TRAVEL DURING LABOR DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Drivers reminded to be prepared for ongoing construction work zones and follow posted speed limits

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Anticipating almost 8.2 million vehicles traveling over the extended Labor Day weekend, the Illinois Tollway asks drivers to slow down on the roads and in construction work zones as they take time to enjoy end-of-summer trips and holiday gatherings.

Ongoing construction will continue on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and throughout the Tollway system, so drivers should follow posted speed limits, especially in work zones, whether or not workers are present and remember the following tips:

- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you and follow the posted speed limit
- Work zone traffic lanes are narrower than other lanes
- Traffic patterns shift often
- Pavement may be uneven in sections

Drivers planning to travel during the holiday weekend can anticipate the heaviest traffic on Friday, August 29, when more than 1.9 million vehicles are expected to use the 294-mile Tollway system. Traffic volumes also are projected to be heavy on Tuesday, September 2, when more than 1.7 million vehicles are expected to travel on the Tollway. On an average day, about 1.6 million vehicles use the Illinois Tollway.

“We’re asking drivers to join us in making safety their top priority by following posted speed limits, particularly when traveling through work zones, where they could encounter new traffic patterns, construction equipment or workers,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “Summer may be coming to an end with the Labor Day holiday, but construction work will continue across the Tollway system as we work to deliver improvements for our customers.”

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 Friday, August 29, through 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2. Some work may continue behind barriers to keep work on schedule. 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 southbound I-294 between North Avenue and I-55 - Through traffic, including trucks, should use express lanes to avoid congestion.
 - Traffic exiting to eastbound I-290 or westbound I-88 must enter the two right lanes north of St. Charles Road.
 - Traffic exiting to Ogden Avenue must enter the two right local lanes south of Cermak Road.
 - Traffic exiting to I-55 must enter the two right lanes at the Hinsdale Oasis.

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- The ramps connecting westbound I-290 to northbound I-294 and westbound Roosevelt Road to southbound I-294 are closed and detours are in place.
- The ramp from westbound Ogden Avenue to southbound I-294 is closed and a detour is 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.
- The ramp from eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 traffic is reduced to a single lane.

Work 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. Remember to stay focused, slow down and watch for changes in traffic patterns in place to provide safe access for drivers in work zones.

***999 ensures help is just a call away**

Calling *999 connects drivers with Tollway roadway maintenance crews who patrol the Tollway system 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 and H.E.L.P. trucks can assist stranded customers by changing tires, jump-starting batteries, adding coolant, dispensing fuel, transporting customers, moving vehicles away from traffic and calling for a tow truck.

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.

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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