



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2025

**LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK
ON CENTRAL SECTION OF CENTRAL TRI-STATE (I-294) PROJECT**
*New traffic patterns southbound between St. Charles Road and I-55
will accommodate ongoing construction in 2025*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Overnight lane closures will be scheduled next week on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project to begin shifting southbound traffic between St. Charles Road and I-55 for the 2025 construction season. Delays are expected.

Overnight lane closures over multiple nights, as well as ramp closures and detours will be needed to shift traffic. The shifts are necessary to provide a safe work zone for ongoing pavement and bridge reconstruction and noisewall work, as weather allows. The new traffic pattern will impact access to eastbound I-290, westbound I-88 and Cermak Road.

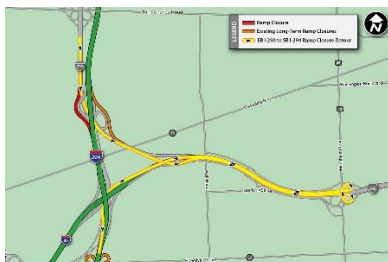
Construction and electronic message signs will be in place in advance to alert drivers to the overnight lane closures, detours and traffic shift. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Beginning the week of March 3, up to five nights of lane closures will be scheduled between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. on southbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and the Hinsdale Oasis with traffic reduced at times to a single lane.

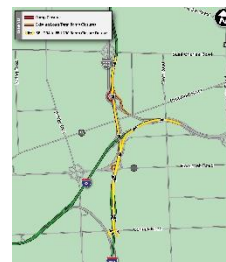
In addition, closures and detours of several ramps will be needed to complete the southbound traffic shifts between St. Charles Road and the Cermak Toll Plaza, including the ramps connecting eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and westbound I-88 and the ramp connecting southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290.

Detour routes include:

- For the ramps connecting eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294 and westbound I-88, traffic will be routed to Mannheim Road and then through the interchange to westbound I-290 to either southbound I-294 or westbound I-88.
- For the ramp connecting southbound I-294 to eastbound I-290, traffic will be routed to Cermak Road and then through the interchange to northbound I-294 to eastbound I-290.



**EB I-290 to SB I-294 and WB I-88
Ramp Closure Detours – [View Map](#)**



**SB I-294 to EB I-290
Ramp Closure Detour – [View Map](#)**

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When complete, work zone traffic patterns on southbound I-294 will maintain four lanes with traffic shifted into a split configuration to allow for construction. The new traffic pattern will have three left lanes continuing on the I-294 mainline between St. Charles Road and the Cermak Toll Plaza and one right lane directed onto the auxiliary lanes providing access to exit ramps for eastbound I-290, for westbound I-88 and for Cermak Road before reconnecting with the southbound I-294 mainline.

For access eastbound I-290, westbound I-88 and Cermak Road, southbound traffic must follow construction signage and stay in the two right lanes. The three left lanes will be express lanes with the next available exit at Ogden Avenue.

After the Cermak Toll Plaza, for access to Ogden Avenue southbound traffic must follow construction signage and stay in the two right lanes. For traffic traveling in the two left lanes, the next available exit will be at I-55.

Later this spring, southbound I-294 traffic between the Hinsdale Oasis and I-55 is also scheduled to shift into the split configuration. There will be no access to the I-55 exit from the two left express lanes.

Traffic on southbound I-294 between St. Charles Road and the Cermak Toll Plaza is scheduled to remain in this configuration through summer 2026. Southbound traffic between the Cermak Toll Plaza and I-55 is scheduled to remain in its configuration through summer 2025. Additional off peak and overnight closures will be scheduled as needed in both directions.

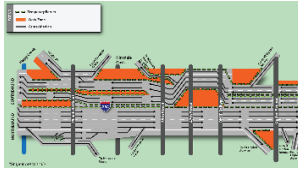
Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, City of Elmhurst, Village of Berkeley, Village of Burr Ridge, Village of Hinsdale, Village of Indian Head Park, Village of Oak Brook, Village of Western Springs, Proviso Township, as well as local fire and police departments.

In 2025, work in this area includes continued construction of southbound mainline pavement, shoulder and median work, reconstruction of the I-294 bridges over Salt Creek and Flagg Creek, southbound bridges over Roosevelt Road, Butterfield Road, the Canadian National Railroad, I-290, Electric Avenue and eastbound ramp from Roosevelt Road to eastbound I-290, as well as the construction of new pavement, retaining walls, noisewalls, storm sewers and utility work.

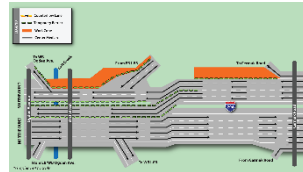
Mainline construction between St. Charles Road and I-55 is currently scheduled through 2026. The Tollway will rebuild the roadway with widening of up to six lanes in both directions in some areas, deliver new SmartRoad infrastructure, as well as deliver reconstructed shoulders and addition of Flex Lanes.

Information, including maps and construction updates, is available on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

As part of the \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, the Tollway is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.



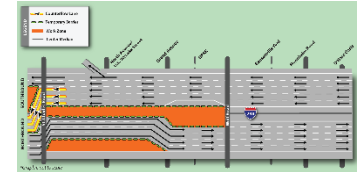
Flagg Creek to Ogden Avenue Traffic Shifts – [View Map](#)



Ogden Avenue to Cermak Road Traffic Shifts – [View Map](#)



Cermak Road to St. Charles Road Traffic Shifts – [View Map](#)



St. Charles Road to O'Hare Oasis Traffic Shifts – [View Map](#)

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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