



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW FLY-UNDER RAMP CONNECTING NORTHBOUND TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) TO WESTBOUND I-290 SCHEDULED TO OPEN THIS WEEKEND

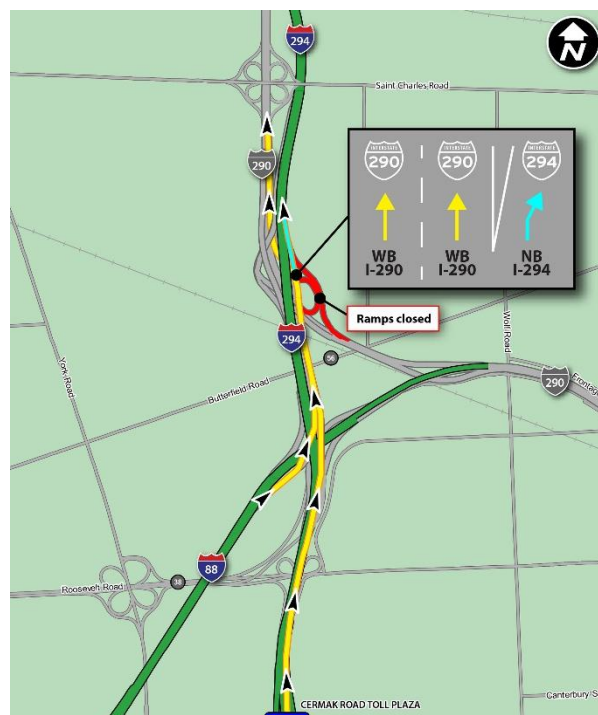
*New ramp to improve traffic flow and reduce travel times
at the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294 Project*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to open a new fly-under ramp carrying northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) traffic to westbound I-290 this weekend as part of the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294 Project.

The new ramp will replace the current 20-m.p.h. loop ramp to improve traffic flow, reduce delays, improve safety at the interchange and accommodate the reconstruction and widening on I-294.

“Opening of this new fly-under ramp is a critical piece of our work to reconfigure and improve travel through the entire I-290/I-88 Interchange on the Tri-State Tollway,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “Until now, cars and trucks have had to dramatically reduce speed to safely navigate the old, single lane and tightly curved ramp to reach I-290, and this new ramp will ultimately reduce travel times from 10 minutes to 3 minutes for traffic traveling between I-294 and I-290.”

This weekend, overnight lane closures, temporary ramp closures and detours will be scheduled for work to open the new ramp, and traffic will be directed to the new fly-under ramp beginning Sunday, November 23.



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Once the new fly-under ramp is open, northbound I-294 traffic traveling to westbound I-290 will exit the mainline onto auxiliary lanes on the right and then will be directed to use the two left lanes to access the new fly-under ramp which will now provide two lanes traveling under the I-294 mainline to access westbound I-290. Drivers in the right lane will continue on to I-294 northbound.

In addition, drivers traveling from eastbound I-88 to westbound I-290 or northbound I-294 will follow the same new traffic patterns.

Currently, drivers stay right to access the loop ramp to I-290 and drivers stay to the left to continue on to I-294.

New roadway signage, as well as construction and electronic message signs, will be put in place in advance to alert drivers of upcoming work and the opening of the new the ramp. Up-to-date closure information will be available in the Illinois Tollway's [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

To prepare for the opening of the new fly-under ramp, overnight on Saturday, November 22, lane and temporary ramp closures and detours will be scheduled.

- On northbound I-294, the current ramp to westbound I-290 and two right auxiliary lanes will be closed with a posted detour. Traffic will be directed to use eastbound I-290 and northbound Mannheim Road to access westbound I-290.
- On eastbound I-88, the ramp to access westbound I-290 will be closed with a posted detour, and the ramp to northbound I-294 will remain open.
- Traffic from I-88 will also be directed to use eastbound I-290 and northbound Mannheim Road to access westbound I-290.
- On westbound I-290, a right lane closure will be scheduled between Wolf Road and St. Charles Road.

In addition, following the opening of the new fly-under ramp, overnight lane closures will be scheduled on northbound I-294 between Roosevelt Road and I-88 to shift traffic into winter configuration. Four lanes will be provided for northbound traffic with two left lanes continuing to northbound I-294 and two right lanes providing access both to the eastbound and westbound I-290 ramps, as well as to northbound I-294.

The reconfiguration and reconstruction of the I-290/I-88 Interchange is estimated at \$800 million and will reduce congestion, improve safety and address operational issues, as well as infrastructure conditions as part of the Illinois Tollway's Central Tri-State Project. Work started in 2020 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2027. More than 300,000 vehicles use the interchange every day, traveling between the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) as well as other local and state roadways.

In addition to delivering the new fly-under ramp, I-290/I-88 Interchange improvements will include barriers integrated to separate various ramp movements from merging traffic to alleviate heavy congestion due to traffic weaving. This also includes new ramp designs to improve travel from southbound I-294 to westbound I-88 and from eastbound I-290 to southbound I-294.

Construction is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, DuPage Water Commission, DuPage County Division of Transportation, PACE Suburban Bus and Canadian National Railroad. Local partners include Forest Preserves of Cook County, Forest Preserves of DuPage County, Village

of Oak Brook, City of Oakbrook Terrace, Proviso Township, City of Elmhurst, City of Northlake, Village of Berkeley, Village of Hillside, local park districts, fire and police departments.

Information including maps and construction updates are available on the [I-290/I-88 Interchange Project](#) page on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project 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.

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* delivered 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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