



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2026

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY REMINDS DRIVERS TO TRAVEL SAFELY
BY AVOIDING DISTRACTED DRIVING DURING EASTER WEEKEND TRIPS**
More than 8.8 million vehicles expected to travel Thursday through Monday

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – With at least 8.8 million vehicles anticipated to travel on the Illinois Tollway system over the extended Easter Holiday weekend, drivers are reminded to keep their attention on the road and avoid any type of distracted driving.

“The Illinois Tollway is asking everyone to focus on safe driving and avoid distractions over the Easter Holiday weekend – Drive First. Everything else can wait,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. “April is also Distracted Driving Awareness Month, so we urge drivers not only to put away cellphones when traveling, but to also stop other risky actions that can take their eyes off the road, including texting, adjusting the radio, applying makeup or eating.”

During the Easter holiday weekend, the busiest travel days are expected to be Thursday, April 2, and Friday, April 3, when more than 1.9 million vehicles are projected to travel each day on the 294-mile Tollway system. On a typical day, about 1.7 million drivers use the Tollway system.

To help make travel easier for drivers, the Illinois Tollway will suspend most temporary maintenance and construction lane closures from noon on Friday, April 3, through 9 a.m. on Monday, April 6. However, construction may continue in existing work zones to keep work on schedule for ongoing [Illinois Tollway construction projects](#).

While construction activity will be limited during the Easter weekend, active work zones that may impact traffic remain in place at several locations on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and at the I-290/I-88 Interchange on I-294. Areas where ongoing work zones may impact traffic include:

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

- On I-294 between 47th Street and North Avenue traffic is shifted in both directions with southbound traffic between St. Charles Road and Cermak Toll Plaza shifted into a counterflow configuration.
- The ramps connecting westbound I-290 to northbound I-294 and westbound I-290 to southbound I-294 are closed and detours are in place.
- The ramp connecting eastbound Golf Road to northbound I-294 is closed with a posted detour.
- The ramp connecting northbound Halsted Street to southbound I-294 is closed with a posted detour.

Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)

- The ramp connecting westbound I-90 to southbound Illinois Route 31 is closed with a posted detour.

Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88)

- The ramp from eastbound I-88 to southbound I-294 traffic is reduced to a single lane.

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.

Dial *999 for rapid Roadway Assistance

Drivers who need assistance should call *999 to get help quickly from 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. Drivers should move their vehicles out of active traffic lanes if possible, activate their hazard lights and, to protect themselves, remain inside their car or truck until help arrives. Drivers should note the roadway they are using, as well as the direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.

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, and to slow down and move over for emergency workers or pedestrians involved in a roadway emergency. 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.

Add visiting family and friends to your I-PASS account

Have friends or family visiting from another state? Any vehicle can be added to your I-PASS account or Pay By Plate service within 14 days of travel to avoid fines and fees, including short-term rental cars and the vehicles of family and friends. Just remember to add your dates of travel for rental cars. It's easy to ensure your list of vehicles is up to date – just snap a pic to add new plates using the Official Illinois Tollway App.

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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