



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2026

LANE CLOSURE SCHEDULED ON GRAND AVENUE IN NORTHLAKE, MELROSE PARK FOR ILLINOIS TOLLWAY I-490 PROJECT

Daily closures needed for railroad bridge construction over Grand Avenue

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Lane closures are scheduled to begin next week on Grand Avenue east of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) in Northlake and Melrose Park to reconstruct the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge over Grand Avenue. The work is part of construction to build the new I-490 Tollway.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place to alert drivers in advance of closures, which are necessary to safely accommodate a work zone. Up-to-date closure information will be posted on the Tollway website in the [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Beginning Monday, February 23, lane closures are scheduled on Grand Avenue between Rhodes Avenue and Garnet Drive. One lane in each direction will be closed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday to allow for bridge abutment construction. These closures are expected to continue through spring, as needed. When there is no active work, all lanes on Grand Avenue will be reopened until work zones and closures are needed again.

Additional closures with detours on Grand Avenue will be required in 2026 to complete the remaining bridge work including installing bridge beams.

Construction in this area is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and the City of Northlake, as well as local fire and police departments.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the I-490 Tollway Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

The Illinois Tollway is constructing the I-490 Tollway, a new north-south corridor designed to improve regional mobility and provide western access to O'Hare International Airport. The more than \$4 billion I-490 Tollway Project includes the construction of 6 miles of new roadway with six new or improved interchanges, offering critical connections between the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), Tri-State Tollway (I-294), I-290 and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

As part of the project, the Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the Union Pacific Railroad bridge over Grand Avenue. Work also includes drainage and utility improvements. Ongoing lane closures and detours are scheduled to continue through 2026.

This work is in coordination with the Illinois Tollway's 16 year, \$15 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.

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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 include 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 14 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 reconstructing 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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