



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 15, 2026**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY READY FOR WINTER STORM BRINGING SLEET AND SNOW**

*Drivers reminded to slow down, dial \*999 for roadside assistance and remain inside their vehicles*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway is urging drivers to slow down and watch for varying pavement conditions as a winter storm bringing sleet and snow is expected to move through the region Sunday evening, possibly affecting drivers during their overnight travels and Monday morning commutes.

The Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 196 plows to clear roads and spread salt and brine solution as de-icing materials to keep customers safe during the winter storm, which is expected to continue through Monday morning. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency's systemwide response to the storm, which could begin as freezing rain and sleet before switching over to heavy snow in some areas as temperatures drop.

"Our crews will be working throughout this storm to keep our roads clear and safe so our customers can safely complete their travels," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Cassandra Rouse. "Tollway plows are using a brine solution along with road salt to help prevent ice from sticking to the pavement, melt ice more effectively at lower temperatures and better protect the environment by reducing the amount of salt needed during storms. We're asking our customers to help us protect them by reducing their speed, steering clear of other vehicles and staying alert for changing pavement conditions and weather conditions."

The Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors working alternating shifts throughout the storm to remove snow and ice from its roads and to assist customers who become stranded or whose vehicles are disabled along the 294-mile Tollway system.

Drivers who need aid should activate their hazard lights, dial \*999 for assistance and for their own protection stay inside their vehicles until help arrives. Drivers should note the roadway they are using, as well as the direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad. For crashes involving property damage only, drivers should continue driving and complete an Illinois State Police crash report online at <https://isp.illinois.gov/CrashReports/CrashReportDisclaimer>.

Before traveling, drivers can receive real-time information on pavement conditions and roadway incidents by signing up for Tollway Trip Tweets via X on the Tollway's website [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com). Drivers may follow all five Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them.

The Illinois Tollway reminds motorists the state's "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, or approaching any emergency vehicle that has its flashing lights on and is still moving.

Drivers also should use caution when passing snowplows, which often work in tandem and travel slower than posted speed limits.

### **Winter Weather Travel Tips**

The Tollway offers the following travel tips to keep safe during winter storms or cold weather:

1. **Be sure your cellphone is fully charged** before heading out.
2. **Be sure tires are properly inflated** during cold weather. Tires lose a pound of pressure for every 10 degrees the temperature drops.
3. **Keep your gas tank at least half full** to avoid gas line freeze-up and ensure that you have extra to account for additional driving time if the weather is unfavorable.
4. **Keep a cold weather safety kit** in your car that includes gloves, boots, blankets, road flares, water and a flashlight with fresh batteries.
5. Stranded motorists should **call \*999 for motorist assistance, turn on their emergency lights and remain in their vehicles** until help arrives.
6. **Put away handheld cellphones** and focus on driving safely—using them behind the wheel is dangerous and illegal..

### **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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