



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 7, 2025**

**TRAFFIC SHIFTS SCHEDULED TO PREPARE FOR WINTER TRAVEL  
ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) BETWEEN I-55 AND CERMAK ROAD**  
*New configuration will include reopening of Ogden Avenue ramp and provide five lanes in both directions*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – As construction continues on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project between I-55 and Cermak Road, the Illinois Tollway is preparing to begin shifting traffic into winter configuration to accommodate ongoing work as weather allows.

The winter traffic configuration will include the reopening of the ramps connecting southbound I-294 to westbound Ogden Avenue and will also provide for five lanes of traffic in both directions to provide additional capacity and safe travel during the winter.

Work to prepare for traffic shifts and lane openings is scheduled to begin this week and continue through December and will require overnight lane closures.

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

Beginning Saturday, November 8, overnight closures will be scheduled on I-294 between the Cermak Road Toll Plaza and I-55 with up to three lanes of traffic closed in each direction to shift traffic.

Once the traffic shift is complete, five lanes of traffic will be open in the southbound direction on I-294 between Ogden Avenue and I-55, and in the northbound direction between I-55 and the Cermak Toll Plaza as part of the winter configuration. All southbound lanes will be shifted to the right to complete median reconstruction through the winter.

Additional traffic shifts in both directions will be scheduled as needed over the winter to continue construction as weather allows.

Mainline construction on I-294 between the Cermak Toll Plaza and I-55 is ongoing and scheduled to continue through 2027. The Illinois Tollway is rebuilding the roadway to provide up to six lanes in both directions, as well as constructing wider inside shoulders to integrate Flex Lanes.

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

Information including maps and construction updates is available on the Tollway's website [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) in the Projects section.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95<sup>th</sup> Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet

-more-

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 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 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.

# # #