



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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ILLINOIS TOLLWAY UNVEILS PROPOSED 15-YEAR, \$26.5 BILLION CAPITAL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ROADS, TRAFFIC AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ILLINOISANS

Driving Connections will ensure long-term reliable transportation, access and economic growth benefiting drivers, businesses and communities

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Today, the Illinois Tollway proposed its next long-term capital program, *Driving Connections*, a 15-year, \$26.5 billion transformative plan to improve our tollways between 2027-2042. This includes signature projects to improve traffic as well as widespread maintenance and improvement projects. The Illinois Tollway’s last long-term capital program, *Move Illinois*, was launched in 2012.

The *Driving Connections* multi-year program will improve the Tollway’s affordable and reliable transportation system that connects communities – providing Illinoisans with a resilient, modern system built to support a dynamic region for generations to come. It will help alleviate traffic for Illinoisans – allowing people to spend more time with their families and less time on the road. *Driving Connections* will fuel the region’s economy by creating thousands of engineering and construction jobs, supporting suppliers and small businesses while improving commerce and economic development.

Driving Connections will bring improvements throughout the Illinois Tollway system – across all five tollways and the 12-county region. The program continues the progress of the *Move Illinois* and *Bridging the Future* capital programs to deliver a seamless and sustained investment in the region’s transportation network.

“The Illinois Tollway is more than just roadways – it’s a vital lifeline that connects people to the jobs, goods, healthcare, housing and opportunities they need to thrive,” Executive Director Cassandra Rouse said. “*Driving Connections* reinforces that mission by putting people first and ensuring our customers – and our state – are positioned for long-term success.”

Funding Plan

The *Driving Connections* capital program will be funded by revenue bonds and toll revenues, which includes proposed toll rate increases for passenger and commercial vehicles effective January 1, 2027. The Illinois Tollway is a user-funded system that receives no state or federal tax dollars for maintenance and operations and is entirely funded by tolls.

Investing in the Tollway system will ultimately save drivers time and money. For example, the I-90 corridor improvements completed in 2017 reduced travel times along the corridor by approximately 25 minutes, while the new interchange at I-294 and I-57 saved drivers up to 13 minutes.

Stop-and-go traffic leads to higher fuel consumption and increased brake and engine wear, increasing costs over time. Studies by the Associated General Contractors of America and American Society of Civil Engineers show that poor road conditions cost drivers approximately \$725 per year due to additional repairs, faster vehicle depreciation and increased fuel use and tire wear.

The Chicagoland area is particularly impacted by traffic, with the average Chicago driver spending about 100 hours per year in traffic – more than two full work weeks – costing about \$1,800 in lost time (INRIX). This is more than double the national average of 43 hours per year sitting in traffic.

Proposed Toll Rates

The Illinois Tollway is proposing toll rate adjustments for both passenger and commercial vehicles, including discounts for I-PASS customers effective January 1, 2027. The increases for passenger toll rates will be roughly 45 cents per toll for I-PASS users and the increase for commercial vehicle toll rates will be approximately 30 percent for I-PASS users. In addition, all toll rates will also be adjusted every other year to account for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) scheduled to begin in 2029. The proposal represents the first toll increase since 2012 for passenger vehicles.

After the proposed rate increase, the Illinois Tollway’s average passenger toll for I-PASS customers will increase from an average of \$0.07 per mile to approximately \$0.11 per mile – below the national average of \$0.16 per mile. National rates are included below for comparison:

	Illinois Increased Rates (I-PASS for passenger vehicles)	National Average /National Range
Tollway Passenger Vehicle Rates	\$0.11 per mile (Average)	\$0.16 per mile (Average); \$0.04 to \$0.56 (range)
Commercial Vehicle Rates	\$0.90 per mile (Average)	\$0.14 to \$2.25 (range)

For detailed information on all proposed toll rates by toll plaza and a trip planner to calculate costs, visit the *Driving Connections* website at www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections.

Public Hearings

Details of the proposed toll rate increase and capital program will be presented at a series of public hearings in the 12 counties served by the Tollway to allow customers and others the opportunity to comment and provide feedback. For more information about public hearings, public comments and the proposed toll increase visit www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections.

DATE	TIME	COUNTY	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Mon., 7/13	5:30-7:30pm	Lake	Greenbelt Cultural Center – <i>Banquet Hall</i>	1215 Green Bay Rd., North Chicago, IL 60064
Tues., 7/14	11-1pm	Cook	Roosevelt University Schaumburg – <i>Zurich Alumni Hall</i>	1400 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Schaumburg, IL 60173
Tues., 7/14	6-8pm	McHenry	Huntley Park District Rec Center – <i>Theatre</i>	12015 Mill St., Huntley, IL 60142
Weds., 7/15	11-1 pm	DuPage	College of DuPage – <i>Student Resource Center</i>	425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Weds., 7/15	6:30-8:30pm	Cook	Markham Park District – <i>Roesner Multipurpose Room</i>	16053 Richmond Ave, Markham, IL 60428
Thurs., 7/16	6-8pm	Lee	Loveland Community House & Museum – <i>Dining Room</i>	513 West Second St., Dixon, IL 61021

Mon., 7/20	11-1pm	DeKalb	Northern Illinois University – <i>Barsema Alumni Hall Ballroom</i>	231 N Annie Glidden Rd., DeKalb, IL 60115
Mon., 7/20	6-8pm	Winnebago	Rock Valley Community College – <i>Stenstrom Student Center</i>	3301 N Mulford Rd., Rockford, IL 61114
Tues., 7/21	11-1pm	Whiteside	Rock Falls Community Building	601 W 10th St, Rock Falls, IL 61071
Tues., 7/21	6-8pm	Will	Lewis University – <i>Flight Deck Building</i>	101 Airport Road, Romeoville, IL 60445
Weds., 7/22	11-1pm	Kane	Prisco Community Center	150 W Illinois Ave., Aurora, IL 60506
Thurs., 7/23	11- 1pm	Ogle	Luna Rochelle	531 South 7th St., Rochelle, IL 61068
Fri., 7/24	11-1PM	Boone	Boone County Museum of History – <i>Grand Gallery</i>	314 S State St, Belvidere, IL 61008

The public may also submit comments online at www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections. Comments must be submitted by noon, Monday, August 3, 2026.

Driving Connections Program Highlights

“The Tollway drives our region’s economy, and *Driving Connections* will ensure we stay ready for the growth and opportunities ahead,” said Arnie Rivera, Chairman of the Tollway’s Board of Directors. “This program reflects the guidance and priorities of stakeholders from across the region, reaffirming that every investment we make in the Tollway delivers real value to local communities.”

The 15-year, \$26.5 billion *Driving Connections* capital program will provide significant benefits to drivers and communities by easing relieving congestion, improving travel reliability and reducing driving costs. The program scheduled for 2027 through 2042 will continue the Tollway’s legacy of generating significant construction jobs, reinvesting program funds locally, benefiting the regional economy.

- **Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355):** \$6.63 billion investment, including improving the I-355/I-88 interchange and widening segments between I-55 to Army Trail Road to reduce congestion.
- **Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88):** \$3.53 billion investment, including adding a new access point on the western portion of I-88, reconstructing the roadway from Illinois Route 56 to Illinois Route 251 and rehabilitating and widening key segments between the Aurora Toll Plaza and the Eisenhower Expressway.
- **North Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294):** \$3.07 billion investment, including roadway rehabilitation and bridge reconstruction between Balmoral Avenue and the Edens Spur, as well as early design work for improvements at the I-294/I-90 Interchange.
- **Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90):** \$2.60 billion investment, including roadway improvements from Elgin to the Kennedy Expressway—including eight miles of new SmartRoads and an expanded interchange at Lee Street—plus reconstructing older roadway and bridge segments between Rockford and Elgin.
- **South Tri-State Tollway (I-294/I-80):** \$2.39 billion investment, including roadway repairs and bridge reconstruction from 159th Street (US-6) to 95th Street, roadway and bridge work—including targeted widenings—between IL 394 and 159th Street, plus five miles of new SmartRoad infrastructure.

- **Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294):** \$1.87 billion investment, including roadway and bridge reconstruction from Balmoral Avenue to Wolf Road, a full interchange at Irving Park Road and design funding for a new bridge over the Bensenville Railroad Yard.
- **Illinois Route 390 and I-490:** \$830 million investment to complete a joint project with the Chicago Department of Aviation to provide parking facilities and screening near the new Illinois Route 390/I-490 interchange, and rehab original segments of the Illinois Route 390 corridor.
- **Programwide:** \$5.57 billion programwide investment, including funding that ensures the Tollway can address new challenges and opportunities that arise over the 15-year program. This includes funding for interagency partnership projects, such as the Corridor Opportunities for Regional Enhancements (CORE) initiative and partnership projects with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), local communities and others. Funding is also provided for innovation and sustainability projects, modernizing maintenance facilities and upgrading back-office systems that support I-PASS and open-road tolling.

Investments in *Driving Connections* are centered around five key goals:

- **Strengthening the system** to ensure long-term reliability to meet changing needs.
- **Driving economic growth** by streamlining connectivity and encouraging development.
- **Maximizing prior investments** in the system to deliver long-term value and benefits.
- **Expanding regional access** through new and improved interchanges and regional coordination.
- **Transforming with technology** to make the Tollway smarter, safer and more sustainable.

Driving Connections was built on a foundation of robust and comprehensive public engagement efforts designed to ensure the capital plan responds to regional priorities and aligns with customer needs. To help further shape that vision, the Tollway convened a Stakeholder Advisory Team – a group of more than 40 regional leaders representing business, labor, transportation, planning, community organizations and local government. The SAT identified regional priorities and developed recommendations that helped ensure *Driving Connections* is both community-driven and regionally balanced.

“We asked questions, we listened and we advanced a capital program that is comprehensive, inclusive and meets the needs of our region for future generations,” said Scott Paddock, Chairman of the Tollway’s Strategic Planning Committee.

For more information about the *Driving Connections* capital program visit www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections.

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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