



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

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SMARTROAD GANTRY WORK SCHEDULED ON CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) BETWEEN NORTH AVENUE AND WOLF ROAD

Temporary overnight lane closures scheduled in September

DOWNERS GROVE, IL –Temporary overnight lane closures are scheduled in September for work to prepare new over-the-road SmartRoad gantries between North Avenue and Wolf Road as part of the Central Tri-State (I-294) Project.

Construction and electronic message signs will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures. Up-to-date closure information will be available on the [Daily Construction Alert](#). All work is weather dependent.

Beginning on Monday, September 21, overnight lane closures on southbound I-294 will be scheduled as needed between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane at times, with intermittent, 15-minute full closures beginning at 12:15 a.m. to remove the overhead structures.

Three nights of closures will be needed in each direction. No closures will be scheduled on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights.

Once the southbound work is complete, crews will shift to northbound I-294 with similar lane closures and schedules.

Lane closures are needed to remove existing crossbars on the SmartRoad gantries for the installation of the electronic signage. The sign assembly work will be completed off-site, with the crossbars scheduled to be reinstalled in 2027.

Each SmartRoad gantry will be equipped with electronic lane signage and message boards designed to deliver real-time, lane-specific travel information to drivers. After testing and activation, the system is scheduled to become operational in 2027 between North Avenue and Wolf Road, helping provide a more reliable travel experience throughout the corridor. The gantries will not be used for toll collection or toll violation enforcement.

I-294 SmartRoad

As part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, the 22-mile corridor will be reconstructed to include flexible infrastructure to enable the Tollway to add new “smart” features as needed or as they become available in the years to come. Altogether, the new SmartRoad corridor will include a total of 80 high-tech gantries placed every half mile between 95th Street and Balmoral Avenue.

The new I-294 SmartRoad feature:

- Active traffic management (ATM) – ATM will provide real-time information to drivers on message boards specific to each lane of traffic that will include the nature and status of traffic incidents, advisory speeds, real-time lane closure notification and traffic pattern changes.

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- State-of-the-art wireless traffic sensors – New traffic sensors will be activated to provide more comprehensive travel time information. Sensors will also be added to ramps along the corridor, enabling the Tollway to monitor them for potential backups.
- New Flex Lanes (inside lanes and shoulders) on I-294 that can be used to direct traffic around an incident to keep traffic flowing and reduce backups to provide reliable service.
- To support the new SmartRoad, the Central Tri-State Project includes upgrades and expansion of the roadway camera system on I-294 from analog to digital high-definition to enhance the Tollway's ability to better respond to roadway incidents. The new roadway cameras will provide increased coverage and include the full length of the Central Tri-State corridor from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street.

Enhancements will also include state-of-the-art weather stations upgraded to provide pavement monitoring and weather conditions at critical locations, including bridges throughout the system.

In addition, the SmartRoad gantries will include overhead electronic message boards with higher-resolution, full-color graphic capable models, which will feature smaller, four-color digital message signs to enhance communications with drivers throughout the corridor.

Construction updates, project information, maps and detour information for work that is part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project are available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com.

In 2026, work at the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294 will include ongoing reconstruction of I-294 bridges over I-88, Butterfield Road, the Canadian National Railroad, I-290 and Electric Avenue. The 2026 work also includes reconstruction of the I-290 bridges over Electric Avenue, and the southbound I-294 to westbound I-88 ramp, the westbound I-290 to St. Charles Road ramp and northbound I-294 as well as continued noisewall, retaining wall, pavement, drainage, electrical and lighting improvements.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's *Move Illinois* capital 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 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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