



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2026

**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY INVITES PUBLIC INPUT
ON PROPOSED \$26.5 BILLION DRIVING CONNECTIONS CAPITAL PLAN**
*Public hearings will gather feedback on proposed investments and toll rate updates
to ensure quality of life projects improve roads and reduce traffic congestion*

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is inviting the public to help shape the future of transportation across Northern Illinois through a series of public hearings on *Driving Connections*, a proposed \$26.5 billion, 15-year capital investment plan designed to strengthen infrastructure, alleviate congestion, improve regional connectivity and support long-term economic growth.

Public hearings will be held July 13-24 across the Tollway's 12-county service area to gather feedback on both the proposed capital plan and proposed toll rate updates. As a user-funded transportation system, the Illinois Tollway receives no state or federal tax dollars, and proposed toll rate updates would support annual maintenance and operations, along with debt service for revenue bonds used to fund capital improvements.

"Millions of people rely on the Illinois Tollway to get to work, move goods, connect with their communities and support our regional economy," said Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse. "*Driving Connections* reflects years of thoughtful planning, technical analysis and public engagement. As we move through this public process, we want to hear directly from the people and communities we serve because their feedback is an important part of shaping the future of the Illinois Tollway."

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.

Residents may attend any public hearing or participate virtually. A complete hearing schedule, meeting materials and information on how to submit comments are available at www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections.

DATE	TIME	COUNTY	LOCATION	ADDRESS
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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

Proposed Toll Rate Updates

The Illinois Tollway is proposing toll rate updates for both passenger and commercial vehicles, including discounts for all I-PASS customers, effective January 1, 2027.

With 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.

The increases for passenger toll rates will be around 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. The proposal represents the first toll increase since 2012 for passenger vehicles.

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.

A complete listing of all proposed toll rates for each toll plaza and a trip calculator with current and proposed toll rates are available at www.illinoistollway.com/drivingconnections.

Driving Connections Program Highlights

The 15-year, \$26.5 billion *Driving Connections* capital program will provide significant benefits to drivers and communities by alleviating 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.

More information about the proposed *Driving Connections* capital program is available at 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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