

# ELGIN O'HARE WESTERN ACCESS PROJECT



## I-490/I-294 Interchange Project

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

As part of the new I-490 Tollway, the Illinois Tollway is delivering a new interchange connecting I-490 to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

The project provides two new ramp bridges that will connect I-490 to I-294. To accommodate the new ramps, the project also included the reconstruction and widening of I-294 to five lanes in both directions between North Avenue and Balmoral Avenue in coordination with the Central Tri-State Tollway Project.

Work on the interchange began in 2020 and was completed in 2025.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The \$360 million I-490/I-294 Interchange Project will improve travel and enhance mobility by providing access to and from the new I-490 Tollway and also the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

Two flyover ramp bridges were constructed to carry traffic from northbound I-294 to the new northbound I-490 Tollway and from southbound I-490 to southbound I-294.

In addition, in coordination with the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project, I-294 has been widened and reconstructed to accommodate the new ramps. The work on the I-294 mainline roadway also included reconstruction of bridges carrying I-294 over the Union Pacific Railroad, Grand Avenue and North Avenue/Lake Street.

The project also included lighting, retaining wall, sewer and stormwater improvements as well as intelligent transportation system (ITS) infrastructure and other related improvements.

### WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) remains safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway safety.

Work 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.

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 and can include 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.

Visit the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

### PURPOSE

The new I-490 Tollway, coupled with the Illinois Route 390 Tollway, which was completed in 2017, will connect businesses and communities with one of the nation's busiest airports, transit facilities, major freight transportation hubs, distribution centers and multiple interstate highways including the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Designed to accommodate access into the O'Hare International Airport, the two new cashless Tollways include 17 miles of new roads with 15 new or improved interchanges. The new I-490 Tollway will be built to carry north-south traffic around the western border of O'Hare and provide access to the airport. The Illinois Route 390 Tollway currently carries east-west traffic between Lake Street (Illinois Route 20) and Illinois Route 83 and will include an interchange connection to the new I-490 Tollway.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, O'Hare International Airport, Cook County, as well as local fire and police departments. The project is funded by the Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program.

### SUSTAINABILITY

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing

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the environmental impact of construction by reducing, recycling and reusing materials. In addition to reducing the cost of this work, reuse of these materials reduces the need for virgin asphalt materials and reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and the volume of material that would otherwise be sent to landfills.

## **GETTING TOLLWAY CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION**

The Illinois Tollway has a variety of ways customers can get the latest travel information, including:

[illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com) — Projects section, live roadway images and real-time roadway incident information.

[Daily construction alerts](#) — Daily and long-term lane and shoulder closure schedules.

[Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) — Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355, Tollway Trip 94/294 and Tollway Trip 390.