

# ELGIN O'HARE WESTERN ACCESS PROJECT



## North Avenue Interchange Project

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The North Avenue Interchange Project delivered a new exit ramp from the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to County Line Road to improve access to North Avenue and Lake Street, as well as reduce congestion and improve traffic flow on existing roadways within the project area.

In partnership with the Illinois Tollway and the cities of Northlake and Elmhurst, Cook County led the project's design and will be constructing the local road improvements.

The project was complete in 2025.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The North Avenue Interchange Project provided a new ramp from southbound I-294 to County Line Road to help reduce congestion at the interchange and on local roads.

Additional improvements included reconstructing and reconfiguring North Avenue, Northwest Avenue, I-290 Frontage Road and Lake Street to improve traffic flow and safety.

The project also included:

- Reconstruction and widening of the Lake Street Bridge, increasing roadway capacity.
- New direct access from Gateway Road to eastbound North Avenue, improving circulation for local traffic.
- Intersection improvements at North Avenue, Northwest Avenue and I-290 Frontage Road, enhancing capacity.
- New signalized intersections and roadway lighting.

The project provided for drainage improvements to help alleviate flooding in the area during periods of heavy rainfall.

Construction of detention ponds to hold stormwater and the installation of storm sewers will help address flooding along North Avenue.

### WORK ZONE SAFETY

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Illinois Tollway, as well as local roads, 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 the environmental 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 North Avenue Interchange Project was designed to improve traffic operations at one of the busiest interchanges along I-294, a corridor that serves as a major connection for freight, commuters, and businesses. The area is a critical hub for commercial and industrial activity, particularly within Northlake's industrial district, where congestion has impacted mobility and travel times.

Previously, drivers had to rely on the congested I-290 Interchange to access North Avenue, contributing to heavy congestion in the area. The improvements will reduce congestion by adding new connections and improving access between I-294, North Avenue, and Lake Street.

### KEY PROJECT BENEFITS

- A decrease in travel times by 15% to 65% including truck traffic.
- Traffic traveling from southbound I-294 to the area is expected to see a decrease in average traffic by 10% to 30%.



For more information,  
visit [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com)



- A decrease in fuel consumption with an annual average savings of \$300.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

The Tollway is committed to building green and minimizing 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.