



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2018

LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK ON I-55 FOR BRIDGE REPAIRS ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294)

Lane reductions on I-55 in both directions needed to prepare for upcoming bridge work, ramp closure with detour to be scheduled in May

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – Beginning this week, overnight lane closures are scheduled to begin on I-55 under the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to prepare for bridge repair work in May on the Central Tri-State Tollway.

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the closures. The closures are necessary to provide a work zone that safely accommodates the construction. All work is weather dependent.

Weather permitting, beginning Monday, April 23, traffic on I-55 will be reduced to a single lane nightly to install protective shielding on the I-294 bridge over I-55. Work will begin in the northbound lanes with the first lane scheduled to close at 9 p.m., followed by a second at midnight. Both lanes will reopen each morning by 5 a.m. Similar weeknight closures will be scheduled in both directions through mid-May.

In addition, overnight closures of the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to southbound I-55 will be schedule as needed. Construction signage will be posted in advance to alert drivers. A detour will be posted directing traffic onto northbound I-55 to LaGrange Road where traffic will be routed through the interchange to reenter I-55 headed southbound.



In 2018, the Illinois Tollway is working on I-294 bridges at eight locations including 87th Street, Roberts Road, I-55, Wolf Road in Indian Head Park, Joliet Road, Flagg Creek, Salt Creek and Roosevelt Road. Work at all locations includes bridge deck and approach slab patching and bridge joint repairs.

The project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County and local fire and police departments.

Repair work on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) is necessary to maintain and extend the life of the roadway and provide safe and convenient travel for Tollway customers. The work is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

Maps, construction and detour information about the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) repairs is available on the Tollway's website at illinoistollway.com via the Interactive Tollway Map and under "Projects Overview" in the Explore Projects section.

Work Zone Safety

The Illinois Tollway is committed to ensuring that the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and I-55 remain safe for both drivers and workers during construction, which is part of the agency's overall commitment to roadway 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 \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 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 includes 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 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 120,000 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first five years of *Move Illinois* is on schedule and within budget, delivering the rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor and 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 Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project and planning for emerging projects, including reconstruction of 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.

#