



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 15, 2020**

## **NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN RESCHEDULED ON THE CENTRAL TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) FOR BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY BRIDGE PROJECT**

*Weekend overnight lane closures to prepare work zone for upcoming placement of bridge segments*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – A new traffic shift has been rescheduled for this weekend on the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Bridge as the Illinois Tollway prepares for upcoming placement of new bridge beam segments as part of construction of a new bridge structure to accommodate I-294 rebuilding and widening.

Beginning the weekend of Friday, June 19, I-294 traffic in both directions between the Salt Creek and 55<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled to shift to the right to allow for the construction of traffic crossovers.

Electronic message signs and construction signage have been put in place in advance to alert drivers of multiple lane closures and traffic shifts throughout the weekend. All work is weather dependent.

“The Illinois Tollway promotes safety of both drivers and workers as we plan and implement roadway improvements,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We will make every effort to minimize the impact of construction on our customers and ask drivers to please be patient and obey the work zone speed limits.”

Overnight Friday, June 19, lane closures on I-294 are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., reducing traffic to a single lane in both directions by 11 p.m. Once the lane closures are in place, work during this time will include placement of temporary barrier walls and pavement striping. All lanes are scheduled to reopen by 6 a.m. on Saturday, June 20. Similar closures will be scheduled for Saturday into Sunday, June 21, to complete the traffic shift. After all lanes are open, traffic in both directions will remain shifted to the right.

With the new traffic shift in place, work will begin to construct two traffic crossovers to the north and to the south of the BNSF Bridge, near Pierce Park and near 47<sup>th</sup> Street. The crossovers will be used to accommodate I-294 traffic during closures when new bridge segments will be installed over the Tollway. This work is currently scheduled to extend throughout the weekend of June 26-30.

Currently crews are assembling bridge segments from portions of steel beams adjacent to the roadway. When bridge segment assembly is complete, crews will use a self-propelled modular transporter (SPMT) vehicle – a combination of multi-axle platforms operated through a computer-controlled system – to lift, carry, and set the very large and heavy segment of bridge beams. The motorized vehicle moves at walking speed and is capable of carrying the large structures and positioning them precisely into final position.

Use of the SPMT technology will allow the Tollway to reduce significant impact to its customers to two weekends, compared to two months of overnight and weekend lane closures with full stops typically scheduled for conventional bridge construction.

Up-to-date information regarding lane closures will be available in the Illinois Tollway’s [Daily Construction Alerts](#).

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The Illinois Tollway is reconstructing the BNSF Railway Bridge, which carries the triple-track railroad over I-294 between Hinsdale and Western Springs, to accommodate the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a longer, wider two-span steel beam structure that will accommodate four tracks and will allow for reconstruction and widening of the Tollway underneath. The new fourth track on the bridge will be used for maintenance purposes by BNSF.

The BNSF Railway Bridge Project is being coordinated with Metra, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway and Cook County, along with local municipalities, park districts, as well as police and fire departments.

The work is part of the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*. Construction information about the BNSF Bridge Project is available in the Projects section on the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **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 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 eight 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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.