

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 23, 2024

NEW RAMP CONNECTING NORTHBOUND TRI-STATE TOLLWAY (I-294) TO EASTBOUND OGDEN AVENUE SCHEDUELD TO OPEN

Ramp relocation part of ongoing Ogden Avenue Interchange improvements and Central Tri-State
Tollway rebuilding and widening

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is preparing to open the new ramp this week connecting the northbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to eastbound Ogden Avenue as part of improvements to the Ogden Avenue Interchange. The ramp was relocated to improve traffic flow at the interchange and accommodate the widening on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

Electronic message signs and construction signage will be put in place in advance to alert drivers to the changes. Up-to-date information will be posted on the Tollway website and in the <u>Daily Construction</u> <u>Alert</u>. All work is weather dependent.

Overnight Thursday, July 25, one northbound lane closure on I-294 between 47th Street and Ogden Avenue is scheduled to close at 8 p.m. in order to open the ramp. In addition, access from northbound I-294 to eastbound Ogden Avenue will be temporarily restricted beginning at 8 p.m. as the existing ramp is closed and the new ramp opened.

Once the existing ramp is closed, traffic from northbound I-294 will be directed onto eastbound Ogden Avenue at the new signalized intersection.

In conjunction with the ramp opening, the right lane on eastbound Ogden Avenue between County Line Road and Grove Avenue is also scheduled to reopen.

All lanes and the new ramp are scheduled to open by 5 a.m. on Friday, July 26.

The Illinois Tollway is investing \$8.9 million to reconfigure the Ogden Avenue Interchange to improve mobility and traffic flow for local drivers and Tollway customers in coordination with the reconstruction and widening of the Central Tri-State Tollway. Currently up to 40,000 vehicles use the interchange daily with up to 33,600 vehicles traveling on Ogden Avenue in the area.

The Ogden Avenue Interchange has been reconfigured from a cloverleaf design to a partial cloverleaf design. The Illinois Tollway combined ramps on the east side of I-294 to create one signalized access ramp from Ogden Avenue to northbound I-294 and the ramp connecting northbound I-294 to eastbound Ogden Avenue has been relocated.

Work to remove the old ramps and complete the interchange improvements will continue in 2024. In addition, construction in the area is ongoing into 2026 as part of the rebuilding and widening of I-294. Construction is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Village of Hinsdale, Village of Western Springs, Cook County Department of Transportation, DuPage County Division of Transportation, Forest Preserves of Cook County, Village of Oak Brook, and local fire and police departments.

Information about the Ogden Avenue Interchange Project including maps and construction updates is available on the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com in the Projects section.

The \$4 billion Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project is reconstructing and widening the roadway between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street to provide congestion relief, update old infrastructure to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional needs. This work is part of the Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program. More than 220,000 vehicles use the Central Tri-State Tollway daily.



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 16-year, \$15 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, is improving mobility, relieving congestion, reducing pollution, creating as many as 165,220 jobs and linking economies throughout the region. The first 12 years of *Move Illinois* are on schedule and within budget, delivering the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway and a rebuilt and widened Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) with its new SmartRoad corridor, as well as 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 new I-490 Tollway 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.