



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

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**MEACHAM ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK
ON JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-90)**

Project starts with advance work on Meacham Road Bridge carrying traffic over I-90

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway's Meacham Road Interchange Project on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Schaumburg is scheduled to begin the week of May 5, with work to prepare for the removal and reconstruction of the bridge carrying Meacham Road over I-90.

The Meacham Road Interchange Project will create a new, partial-access interchange to connect Meacham Road and I-90. Construction is scheduled to be complete in 2016.

"This new interchange will improve access to jobs and entertainment venues already nearby and provide new opportunities for economic development," Illinois Governor Pat Quinn said. "This project is a great example of how the Illinois Tollway is working to get people where they want to go more quickly and conveniently."

"There is tremendous excitement surrounding the start of construction of this brand new interchange," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. "Working with our local partners in Schaumburg and Cook County, we are pooling our resources to improve access for our customers and businesses."

Funding for the Meacham Road Interchange Project will be provided in part by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, and by the village of Schaumburg and Cook County. The project cost is estimated at \$35-\$45 million with work scheduled to be complete in 2016.

The project includes construction of a new westbound exit ramp and westbound entrance ramp, as well as reconstruction of the Meacham Road Bridge to accommodate the new, wider Tollway being built as part of the I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project. A new, steel bridge structure will provide three lanes and full shoulders in both directions and will accommodate room on the northbound side of the bridge for a new multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path.

Bridge Work Begins Next Week

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 5, work to remove and reconstruct the Meacham Road Bridge will begin by reducing traffic on Meacham Road from three lanes to two lanes in each direction between Tower Road and Thoreau Drive. Initial work will include removal of the existing median, construction of temporary pavement and installation of temporary traffic signals to prepare to shift traffic on Meacham Road.

By early June, traffic on Meacham Road will be shifted to the northbound lanes of the existing bridge. At that time, the southbound side of the bridge will close for removal and reconstruction. Traffic will remain in this configuration until fall while the southbound side of the bridge is reconstructed. Traffic will then be moved onto the new lanes on the southbound side of the bridge while the northbound side of the bridge is reconstructed.

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The Meacham Road Bridge will remain open throughout construction and traffic on Meacham Road and on I-90 will be shifted as the bridge is rebuilt and widened. Up to 36,000 vehicles use Meacham Road on a daily basis.

Work in 2014 includes reconstruction of the bridge. Construction scheduled for 2015-2016 includes completion of work on the bridge, as well as work to build the new ramps to complete a partial-access interchange.

Work Zone Safety

A 35 mph work zone speed limit will be in effect 24/7 in the construction zone on Meacham Road. The work zone speed limit on I-90 is 55 mph in both directions of I-90 between Illinois Route 25 and Elmhurst Road, whether or not workers are present, while a 45 mph work zone speed limit will be in place in both directions between Elmhurst Road and I-294. Drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution at all times.

Illinois State Police have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$375. Posted signs advise drivers of a \$10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.

Getting Tollway Construction Information

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

- www.illinoistollway.com – Construction/Planning section, Tollway Trip Calculator and real-time roadway incident information
- 1-800-TOLL-FYI – Daily lane closure information
- www.travelmidwest.com – Real-time travel times
- www.nbcchicago.com – Up-to-the-minute traffic by roadway
- www.myfoxchicago.com – Latest traffic conditions
- www.twitter.com – Real-time roadway incident information at Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 88, Tollway Trip 355 and Tollway Trip 94/294

About Move Illinois

The Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*, will improve mobility, relieve congestion, reduce pollution, create as many as 120,000 jobs and link economies across the Midwest region. *Move Illinois* will address the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system; rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; build a new, all-electronic Elgin O'Hare Western Access and fund planning studies for the Illinois Route 53/120 Project and the Illiana Expressway.

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 286 miles of interstate tollways 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) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

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