

TRAFFIC SHIFT ON IL ROUTE 31 FOR REAGAN MEMORIAL (I-88) TOLLWAY REBUILD & WIDEN PROJECT

IL Route 31 Ramp Closures Scheduled in April for Reconstruction Work

DOWNERS GROVE, III. – Drivers will be impacted by traffic shifts on IL Route 31 over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) through 2008 as the bridge is rebuilt and lengthened to accommodate the mainline Rebuild & Widen Project between the Aurora Toll Plaza and Orchard Road. The IL Route 31 Bridge is being rebuilt in stages as the bridge remains open to traffic. Ramp closures at the IL Route 31 interchange also are scheduled this spring as part of the Rebuild & Widen Project. Drivers will also be impacted by the upcoming deliveries of the arch beam supports for the new eastbound Fox River Bridge.

Multiple Rebuild & Widen Projects are already underway along a 23-mile stretch of the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) from Oak Brook to North Aurora. The 2008 work involves four separate rebuilding and widening projects with all work scheduled for completion by the end of 2009 as part of the Illinois Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program – *Open Roads for a Faster Future*.

IL Route 31 Bridge Reconstruction

Traffic on IL Route 31 is now reduced to one lane in each direction on the southbound side of the road as work begins to reconstruct the bridge carrying traffic over I-88. When work to rebuild the northbound side of the bridge is completed later this summer, traffic will be shifted onto the new lanes on the northbound side of the bridge and work will begin to rebuild the southbound bridge. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction from Airport Road to the I-88 interchange through the end of the 2008.

Ramp Closures at IL Route 31 Begin in April

The ramp carrying IL Route 31 traffic to enter westbound I-88 is scheduled to close to traffic on Tuesday, April 1, through late summer for reconstruction of the ramp bridge. A detour will be posted directing traffic to go south on IL Route 31 to Indian Trail Road, west on Indian Trail Road to Orchard Road, and north on Orchard Road to enter I-88 westbound at the Orchard Road interchange.

The ramp carrying eastbound I-88 traffic exiting to IL Route 31 will close later this spring through late summer. The posted detour for that ramp closure will direct traffic to exit at Orchard Road, go south on Orchard Road to Indian Trail Road, and east on Indian Trail Road to reach IL Route 31.

Fox River Bridge Arch Delivery

Work to transport the 40 arch beam supports for the new eastbound Fox River Bridge under construction is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 24, dependant upon weather. Up to four transports per day are scheduled over the next several weeks to move the arches into place for erection. The first deliveries will be transported to the west side of the bridge, traveling southbound on IL Route 25 to Sullivan Road, west on Sullivan Road to IL Route 31, and north on IL Route 31 to the bridge. Deliveries will be escorted by Illinois State Police and will be traveling at a low rate of speed. The approximate delivery times are at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Work Zone Safety

A 45 m.p.h. speed limit is in effect 24/7 in all construction zones, whether or not workers are present. Drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution, especially when workers are present. 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 motorists of a \$10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker. Keep Workers Alive – Drive 45.

Know Before You Go

The Tollway offers a variety of ways for drivers to get the latest information on construction and traffic on our roads.

- **www.illinoistollway.com** – Construction Section – for details by road
- **1-800-TOLL-FYI** – daily lane closure info
- **Roadway and electronic signs**
- **www.gcmtravel.com** – travel times
- **Sign up for E-mail updates**
 - Up-to-the-minute traffic by road – www.nbc5.com
 - Construction eNewsletter – www.illinoistollway.com

Part of Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program

The Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) Rebuild & Widen Project is part of the Tollway's Congestion-Relief Program, *Open Roads for a Faster Future*, which will reduce travel times by rebuilding/restoring nearly the entire system, widening/adding lanes to many miles of existing roads, converting 20 mainline toll plazas to barrier-free Open Road Tolling, and extending I-355 south to I-80 in Will County.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway 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/I-294). Tollway customers save time and money with I-PASS electronic toll collection - ***Get I-PASS & Get Going!***

All Work Is Weather Dependent.

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