

## Illinois Tollway Congestion-Relief Program 2006 Construction

### Congestion-Relief Program Summary

2006 is the second year of the Tollway's \$5.3 billion Congestion-Relief Program. This 10-year capital program is front loaded, with most construction occurring in the first five years, generating \$20 billion in economic benefits and creating 252,000 jobs. Following are the key components of the Program designed to reduce travel times:

- Rebuilds/reconstructs 90 percent of the system, some roads more than 45 years old
- Widens/adds lanes to nearly half the system - 117 miles
- Converts 20 mainline toll plazas to barrier-free, non-stop Open Road Tolling by 2006
- Extends I-355 south to I-80 to serve Will County, one of the fastest-growing areas in the state

### 2006 Congestion-Relief Program Projects – see related map

- **Open Road Tolling Conversion** – *see computer simulation at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com)*
  - Phase I: Delivered ORT at nine plazas in 2005 including Aurora (I-88); Boughton Road and Army Trail Road (I-355); Irving Park, Touhy Avenue, Cermak Road, 82<sup>nd</sup> St., and 83<sup>rd</sup> St. (I-294)
  - Phase II: Deliver ORT at remaining mainline plazas by fall 2006, including South Beloit, Belvidere, Marengo, Elgin, Devon and River Road (I-90); Waukegan and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street (I-294); Meyers/York Road, DeKalb and Dixon (I-88).
  - Keeping as many temporary IPO lanes open as possible during conversion to ORT to minimize the impact to drivers
- **North-South (I-355) South Extension**
  - Bridge construction begins in 2006
    - Construction of footings for the bridge piers begins March 2006 for the 1.3-mile long bridge over the Des Plaines River Valley
    - Crossroad bridge construction starts with closure of Gougar and 163<sup>rd</sup> Street in mid-March – detour routes will be posted
    - Remaining crossroad bridges begin construction in 2006 with traffic shifted to a temporary road while the new bridge is constructed over the path of new road
    - Work begins in spring 2006 on interchanges at I-55 and I-80
    - New road open to traffic by late 2007
- **South Tri-State (I-294) Rebuild & Widen**
  - Phase I: from Kingery (I-80/94) to 167<sup>th</sup> St. - northbound lanes complete June 2006; southbound lanes complete by fall 2006
    - Traffic from 167<sup>th</sup> Street to Center Street is shifted to the northbound side of the road – work began over the winter to remove old pavement and to complete median work
    - South of Center Street to the Lincoln Oasis, one southbound lane crosses to the northbound side of the road and does not have access to exits at Halsted St. or the Lincoln Oasis. East of the oasis, three lanes return to the southbound side of the road.
    - By June, a second southbound lane will cross over to the northbound side of the road, with one southbound lane on newly constructed pavement on the inside southbound lane

## Open Road Tolling Conversion

Since the summer of 2005, the Illinois Tollway has been converting 20 mainline toll plazas to Open Road Tolling (ORT) for non-stop I-PASS travel with 9 completed in 2005 (Phase I) and the remaining 11 plazas complete in 2006 (Phase II). This project is part of the Tollway's \$5.3 billion Congestion-Relief Program to reduce travel times.



**Toll Plaza with Open Road Tolling**

### Update – Latest Construction Info

**NOW OPEN: Aurora (I-88); Edens Spur (I-94); Boughton Road and Army Trail Road (I-355); Irving Park, Touhy Avenue, Cermak Road, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street (I-294).**

### COMING THIS YEAR

#### **82<sup>nd</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup> Street Toll Plazas (I-294)**

On December 18, 2005, **two ORT lanes** opened at each plaza for non-stop I-PASS travel. The new ORT lanes are separated from a smaller plaza on the right at 82<sup>nd</sup> St., with four toll booths for customers paying cash. At 83<sup>rd</sup> St. there are four toll booths for cash customers.

As of March 4, one northbound lane approaching and departing the cash side of the 83<sup>rd</sup> St. plaza is closed and one southbound lane departing the cash side of the 82<sup>nd</sup> St. plaza is closed during this next stage of construction. The two ORT lanes at each plaza remain open but traffic delays are expected and drivers are urged to plan accordingly. The Illinois Tollway thanks drivers for their patience during this final construction stage. This configuration will be in place until two additional ORT lanes are scheduled to open in summer 2006.

#### **Devon Avenue Toll Plaza (I-90)**

Traffic has shifted to the right as work has begun on the left side of the plaza. The plaza will remain in this configuration until summer of 2006. When work is complete in 2006, the plaza will feature **four westbound ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel and a smaller plaza to the right will include five toll booths for customers paying cash and an I-PASS Only lane for I-PASS customers who need to exit shortly after the plaza.

### ***Elgin Toll Plaza (I-90)***

Traffic in the plaza is shifted to the right to begin construction of the ORT lanes. Three toll booths and two I-PASS Only lanes will remain open in each direction during peak travel. Traffic will remain in this configuration until summer 2006. When work is complete in 2006, the plaza will feature **three ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel and a smaller plaza to the right will include five toll booths for customers paying cash.

### ***163<sup>rd</sup> Street Plaza (I-294)***

One I-PASS Express lane is now closed in each direction as work begins to construct three new ORT lanes. One I-PASS Express lane, four toll booths and one I-PASS Only lane will remain open in each direction during this phase of construction. When work is complete later this year, the plaza will feature **three ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel and a smaller plaza to the right will include four toll booths for customers paying cash and an IPO for I-PASS users planning to exit shortly after the plaza.

### ***Waukegan Toll Plaza (I-94)***

Traffic in the plaza is shifted to the left as work begins to construct the overhead monotube and ORT lanes. The Wadsworth Road Bridge, just south of the plaza, is closed to traffic for work to replace and lengthen the bridge to accommodate ORT at the Waukegan Plaza just north of the bridge. The bridge is scheduled to be closed until August 2006. When completed later this year, there will be **three ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel. There will be four toll booth lanes northbound and five toll booth lanes southbound in smaller plazas on the right.

### ***Meyers Road Toll Plaza (I-88)***

Work is underway to construct a new eastbound plaza to improve safety and ease traffic flow during and after construction. Eastbound traffic from Highland Ave. to Meyers Rd. is shifted to the right with two lanes together on the far right and one separate lane to the left so work can begin to build the ORT lanes. The York Road Toll Plaza is being split to accommodate ORT with the westbound plaza in the current location. The IL Route 83 and Midwest Rd. ramps will be reconfigured to remove the toll from the westbound exit ramps and construct toll collection on the eastbound entrance ramps. **The eastbound entrance to I-88 from Midwest Road is closed to traffic for reconstruction and is scheduled to reopen in mid-summer 2006.** When work is complete in 2006, the plaza will feature **three eastbound ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel and a smaller plaza to the right will include four toll booths for customers paying cash. A fourth ORT lane will be constructed when I-88 is scheduled to be widened in 2007-2008.

### ***York Road Toll Plaza (I-88)***

Work will begin in spring 2006 to convert the westbound York Road Toll Plaza on I-88 to Open Road Tolling.

### ***Dixon Toll Plaza (I-88)***

Work is underway to construct a new plaza three miles east of the current plaza, which will remain open during construction. One mainline lane in each direction is scheduled to remain closed for approximately one mile at the new site until June. A new plaza site was selected to address community concerns and ease construction impacts. When work is complete in 2006, the new plaza will feature **two ORT lanes** for non-stop I-PASS travel and a small plaza to the right will include three toll booths for customers paying cash.

### ***DeKalb Toll Plaza (I-88)***

Work is underway to construct a new plaza five miles west of the current plaza, which will remain open during construction. One mainline lane in each direction is scheduled to remain closed for approximately two miles at the new site until late May. A new plaza site was selected to address community concerns

For further information, please visit [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) and view the Construction section, or call 1-800-TOLL-FYI.

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