



*Move Illinois:
The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*

NEWS

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**ILLINOIS TOLLWAY, IDOT AND DUPAGE COUNTY ANNOUNCE OPENING OF FIRST NEW
RAMPS FOR ELGIN O'HARE WESTERN ACCESS PROJECT I-290 INTERCHANGE**

Ramps improve access and provide free-flow travel to new Illinois Route 390

ITASCA, IL – The Illinois Tollway's Executive Director Greg Bedalov and Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom, Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn and DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin today announced the opening of three new ramps connecting I-290 to the new Illinois Route 390 as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) Project.

"I commend the state and local leaders on the progress made so far on one of the largest roadway projects in the state and across the nation," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "The \$3.4 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project will bring needed congestion relief, reduced travel times, new access to O'Hare International Airport, as well as much-needed opportunities for economic development and new jobs for the region."

"Opening these new ramps represents the realization of a decades-long vision for the western suburbs," said Illinois Tollway Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom. "Motorists will begin to realize the benefits of a world-class, modern roadway relieving congestion today and opening the way for improved access to O'Hare International Airport."

As part of the EOWA Project, the Illinois Tollway is completely rebuilding the I-290 Interchange at Illinois Route 390, formerly known as the Elgin O'Hare Expressway. The new I-290 Interchange will feature new third-level, multi-span flyover ramp bridge structures that will pass over both I-290 and Illinois Route 390. The new flyover ramp will provide free-flow travel between I-290 and Illinois Route 390.

Beginning Friday night, July 24, crews will work over the weekend to open the interchange's first three new ramps to traffic, including the flyover ramp from westbound I-290 to westbound Illinois Route 390 and the ramp from eastbound I-290 to westbound Illinois Route 390, creating new, free-flow traffic movements to the west and eliminating the signalized intersection at Thorndale Avenue. A new ramp from westbound I-290 to eastbound Illinois Route 390 will also open in time for the morning commute on Monday, July 27.

"The Tollway's completion of these initial ramps brings us one step closer to realizing the full benefits of a new interchange connecting I-290 and the new Illinois Route 390," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "The Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project will enable the Chicago region to retain and strengthen its competitive edge over other major cities and unlock the economic potential of the region in the years ahead."

"The Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project is a great example of how working together from the local level on up can get things done," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. "This is a great day for regional transportation and helps to ensure the continued success in a part of Illinois that's

one of the state's biggest economic engines. We are proud to have worked on this project from the beginning and look forward to the many milestones that lie ahead."

The new flyover ramp completed by the Illinois Tollway connecting westbound I-290 to westbound Illinois Route 390 includes eight concrete piers with 6- to 8-foot-diameter columns and 54 steel girders to support the new ramp. The total length of the flyover ramp bridge is 2,100 feet with a bridge deck 34 feet above grade at its highest point.

IDOT began construction this month on the second flyover ramp that will carry I-290 eastbound traffic to eastbound Illinois Route 390, with completion scheduled by the end of 2017.

"We are very excited to have improved connections between Illinois Route 390 and I-290," said Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson, who is also a Tollway Board member. "The new ramps will significantly improve mobility benefitting local businesses, commuters and the area's freight and manufacturing industries."

"We look forward to working with the Tollway as we fulfill the promise this road carries with it for the communities and citizens who live here," said DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin. "Together, we will continue to actively recruit new business and encourage existing companies to expand along this corridor, so that our local communities can attain the economic goals they set forth."

Scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017, the I-290 Interchange Project is estimated at approximately \$440 million and altogether will include 17 ramps and 15 new bridges in the interchange area between Meacham/Medinah Road and Prospect Avenue, including the new I-290 Interchange, the new Rohlwing Road Bridge and frontage roads, local access improvements and part of the new Illinois Route 390 roadway. The I-290 Interchange Project will create direct access with free-flow traffic movements to and from Illinois Route 390 in all directions and reduce travel times by up to 35 percent.

Currently, about 83,000 vehicles per day use ramps at the I-290 Interchange, with up to 127,000 vehicles per day expected to use the new interchange ramps when it opens in 2017 – an increase of more than 53 percent. Today, about 240,000 vehicles a day travel through the Illinois Route 390/I-290 area. By 2030, that number is expected to increase to 340,000.

The I-290 Interchange Project is part of the \$3.4 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project, which is included in the Tollway's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Moving the Future*.

About Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project

Considered a Project of National and Regional Significance by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the \$3.4 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project represents a fiscally responsible approach to address the area's diverse travel needs – improving travel efficiency, providing western access to O'Hare International Airport, creating opportunities for jobs and economic development, enhancing multi-modal connections and reducing congestion. The project includes 17 miles of new roads with 15 new or improved interchanges as part of a new, all-electronic toll road that includes rehabilitating and widening Illinois Route 390, formerly known as the Elgin O'Hare Expressway, and extending it east along Thorndale Avenue to O'Hare and building a new roadway around the western border of O'Hare linking the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294). Broadly supported by local governments, the project is the result of bipartisan consensus reached by the Elgin O'Hare Advisory Council in 2011, which brought together local communities, business, labor, public finance and regional planning and transportation experts.

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, Illiana Expressway and other emerging projects.

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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