



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2016

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PREPARED FOR RUSH HOUR SNOWFALL

Drivers advised to allow more time for morning commutes

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway is deploying its full fleet of 185 snowplows in response to sleet and snow beginning overnight and continuing through the Tuesday morning rush hour. The Tollway's Snow Operations Center is open to manage the agency's systemwide response.

"We are urging drivers to slow down during their morning commutes and to allow additional time for their trips," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "Conditions across our system may vary as the storm moves through the region, so we are asking our customers to increase the distance between the vehicles in front of them and to also give our snowplows the room they need to safely work,"

The Tollway also is advising travelers to use extra caution as strong winds may cause blowing snow that could reduce visibility on some roadways.

The Illinois Tollway will have a full complement of more than 200 staff and supervisors per shift to ensure that roadways are kept clear of ice and snow.

Snowplows often work in tandem to remove as much ice, slush and snow as possible from all lanes at once. They travel at a speed of approximately 30 to 35 miles per hour, so traffic delays should be expected. When it is safe to pass, the plows spread out and allow traffic to flow around them.

Drivers whose vehicles become disabled should dial *999 from a cellphone for assistance from Illinois State Police District 15 or from the Tollway's Highway Emergency Lane Patrol (H.E.L.P.) trucks sponsored by State Farm. Drivers should note the roadway and direction of travel and nearest milepost or crossroad.

Travelers who want to take a break from the snowfall can stop at any of the Tollway's six oases pavilions, which are open 24 hours a day. The oases provide a variety of food, beverage and retail offerings, as well as fuel stations. On the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80), there are four oases: Lake Forest, O'Hare, Hinsdale and Chicago Southland Lincoln in South Holland. There also are oases on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Belvidere and on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in DeKalb.

Tollway Travel Tips

The Tollway offers the following tips for winter weather events:

- Slow down and leave enough time to reach your destination.
- Do not make sudden lane changes and always use your turn signal.
- Don't follow too closely and increase your intervals between vehicles.
- Reduce speed in cash lanes at toll plazas.
- Remember to always wear your safety belt and ensure children under the age of 8 are securely restrained in child safety seats.

- Don't text or use a hand-held cellphone while driving. Both are illegal.
- Need Help? Dial *999. If your vehicle becomes disabled, park safely on the shoulder, raise your hood and remain in your vehicle. Dial *999 and assistance will be dispatched to your location.

Illinois Tollway Keeps Drivers Informed

In addition to working to keep roads free of snow and ice, the Illinois Tollway provides drivers with information to help them reach their destinations safely during winter weather events.

The Illinois Tollway's Traffic and Incident Management System (TIMS) provides real-time travel times and roadway conditions on over-the-road electronic message signs throughout the Tollway.

Real-time roadway incident information including the type of incident, location and impact on traffic is also available on www.illinoistollway.com or via Twitter to assist drivers in planning their trips. Drivers can sign up for Tollway tweets at www.twitter.com from the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com. Tweeters can follow all four Tollway Trips or just the roadways that interest them. The four are Tollway Trip 90, Tollway Trip 94/294, Tollway Trip 88 and Tollway Trip 355.

Before traveling, customers can access live camera feeds that offer "bird's-eye" views from 21 different locations along the Tollway system. The camera feeds are easily accessible by selecting the "View Traffic Cameras" link on the Tollway's homepage at www.illinoistollway.com.

In addition, the Tollway operates a toll-free telephone line to keep customers up-to-date about weather conditions on its roadways. Customers can call 1-800-TOLL-FYI (1-800-865-5394) for recorded information updated every two hours or as conditions require during winter storms.

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).

#