



MEMORANDUM

To: Village Managers, Central Tri-State (I-294) Adjacent Municipalities

From: Sarah Kukadia, Deputy Chief of Program Implementation

Date: October 31, 2019

Subject: Central Tri-State (I-294) Work Hours, V3 (updated as of July 28, 2022)

The Central Tri-State (I-294) Corridor Reconstruction Project, a 22-mile stretch of I-294 between 95th Street in Oak Lawn and Balmoral Avenue in Rosemont, is underway. The corridor carries the heaviest volume of passenger and freight traffic on the Tollway, and users experience twice the congestion delays compared to the rest of the system—representing \$330 million annually in time and fuel. The corridor also connects two international airports and plays an integral role in the region’s economy.

The project will benefit the Chicago region making improvements to address traffic congestion, access, flooding and freight concerns. The project team is committed to working together with communities and local agencies, to help address stormwater/flooding issues, access, safety, noise, freight and economic opportunities.

Throughout discussions with the adjacent communities and stakeholders, the subject of construction work hours has been raised. This memo is to clarify, define, and fully outline the Illinois Tollway’s standard operating practice and approach the project team will take when constructing the project. While the Illinois Tollway recognizes that local work hour rules exist in adjacent municipalities, the Illinois Tollway, having the exclusive statutory authority to deliver a regional project such as this, has established a work hour policy to address the entire 22-mile corridor.

The Illinois Tollway understands that construction can be disruptive at times since the Central Tri-State Corridor (I-294) runs through a densely-populated area and is one of the highest traveled sections throughout the Illinois Tollway system. The Tollway has designed this project to minimize project duration and disruption for all stakeholders and mobilize construction in a manner that ensures work is completed expeditiously. The Tollway makes every effort to move projects forward on time and to act on opportunities to move the project to completion, and this work hours policy reflects our desire to move our projects along without delays. All of these factors, along with motorist, worker and community safety, the public’s best interest, and the project benefits to the region have informed the position and direction of the Illinois Tollway’s work hours overview below.

Central Tri-State Work Hours Overview

Work on Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation and County Right-of-Way

Permanent Maintenance of Traffic: Is used for long term construction activities by establishing a work zone separated from traffic using concrete barrier walls. Typically, permanent maintenance of traffic does not reduce the total number of travel lanes through the work zone. In areas where permanent maintenance of traffic is in place, municipalities should anticipate work to generally be performed between 7 AM and 10 PM daily within 1,000 feet of residences. Exceptions to this general practice, as determined by the Illinois Tollway, may include work that must be performed during overnight hours (e.g., saw-cutting, demolition, paving, beam erection) due to lane closure restrictions, timing requirements for specific materials or schedule. While not the intent of the Illinois Tollway, work may take place into the evening and overnight hours. Most of the work on the Central Tri-State will be performed using permanent maintenance of traffic to establish safe working environments. When conducting work in areas that will eventually be on the local side of the noisewall or right-of-way fence line (IE: detention ponds, noisewall construction near residences, demolition of acquired properties) the Tollway will make reasonable accommodations to work within the municipality work hours.

Temporary Maintenance of Traffic: Is used for short term construction activities by establishing a work zone separated from traffic using cones, barricades or drums. Typically, temporary maintenance of traffic does result in a reduction in the number of travel lanes through the work zone. This necessitates work to occur during non-peak travel times including overnight hours to minimize traffic delays and disruptions. Therefore, when temporary maintenance of traffic is in use, municipalities should anticipate work to occur at night.

Holidays: The Illinois Tollway prohibits temporary lane closures on the following holidays—Easter weekend, Memorial Day weekend, Independence Day, Labor Day weekend, Thanksgiving, the Friday after Thanksgiving and the following weekend, Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Work on Municipal Streets, and Parks and Recreation Areas

For work on municipal streets and in parks and recreation areas, unless otherwise agreed to, the contractor will generally be required to cooperate with the limitations imposed by local ordinances with respect to construction operations and equipment noise and work time restrictions.

Exceptions to this general practice may include work that must be performed outside the aforementioned restrictions due to timing requirements for specific materials or schedule. Prior authorization of work falling outside of aforementioned restrictions will be required, and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) or other agreements between different key stakeholders will prevail over this work hours memo.

Work on Railroad Right-of-Way

The Illinois Tollway has no authority as to working hours of railroad personnel or railroad contractors working on railroad right-of-way.

Work Performed by Third-Party Contractors

The Illinois Tollway has no authority as to the working hours of third-party contractors, including utility agencies.

Construction Communications

The Construction Corridor Management communications team will notify municipalities, and work with municipalities as requested to notify nearby residents, indicate hours expected, as well as convey the rationale for the additional work hours. Additionally, village staff and emergency responders will be invited to pre-construction meetings, maintenance of traffic meetings, and construction progress meetings. Furthermore, regular updates will be provided via email or phone regarding projects impacting municipalities.

Inquiries regarding construction of the project can be directed to the following points of contact:

- 24/7 construction hotline: 630-246-2930
- Shannon Armstrong, 630-371-8222, sarmstrong@transystems.com (North Corridor: Rosemont, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, Bensenville, Northlake, Elmhurst, Berkeley, Hillside, Oak Brook, Proviso Township)
- Kate Organ, 630-470-0180, klorgan@transystems.com (South Corridor: Western Springs, Hinsdale, Indian Head Park, Burr Ridge, Countryside, Hodgkins, Willow Springs, Justice, Hickory Hills, Oak Lawn, Lyons Township)
- Mandi Jennings, 630-335-4566, mjennings@transystems.com (Corridor Wide)