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Kennedy to Congress Ramp Closes Wednesday for Next Phase in Jane Byrne Interchange Project

Prelude to Weekend Closures; Halsted Street Bridge Beam Removal

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) today is reminding motorists that the inbound Kennedy Expressway (eastbound Interstate 90/94) ramp to inbound Congress Parkway will be closing, weather permitting, at 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 19, until the morning of Monday, Aug. 31. The work is part of the ongoing overhaul of the Jane Byrne Interchange.

A detour route will be posted directing inbound Kennedy traffic to the Roosevelt Road exit, Jefferson Street, Harrison Street and Wells Street to connect with Congress Parkway.

While the ramp is closed, it will be used over the next two weekends to stage the equipment and materials needed for the installation of steel beams that will support the deck of the new flyover bridge linking the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway (westbound Interstate 90/94) to the outbound Eisenhower Expressway (westbound Interstate 290).

Installing the beams will require a total of four weekends of lane closures, starting this Friday, Aug. 21. The other weekends are Aug. 28-30, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 16-18. During the first two weekends, both directions of Congress Parkway at the Byrne Interchange will be closed, though traffic can still access the I-90/94 ramps. Both the Kennedy and Dan Ryan expressways will be reduced to one lane during the overnight hours Saturday into Sunday morning, with intermittent full stops on all lanes.

Please visit www.circleinterchange.org for detailed closure information, other ongoing impacts to traffic and background information about the project, including a streaming high-resolution view of the work zone.

The weekends were selected after coordinating with the City of Chicago to minimize the impact

to special events and festivals. The city will remain open for business and visitors should not change their plans. But the public is advised to anticipate longer travel times if they are driving in this area during the weekends the closures are scheduled, especially during the overnight hours. The use of public transportation is encouraged.

Separately, also as part of the Jane Byrne project, IDOT is planning overnight ramp closures during the overnight hours of Thursday, Aug 20, and Friday, Aug. 21, for the removal of the beams on the old Halsted Street bridge over the Eisenhower Expressway.

Starting at 1 a.m. Thursday, the inbound Eisenhower ramp to the outbound Dan Ryan will be closed until 5 a.m. Traffic will be directed to the outbound Kennedy and the Augusta Boulevard entrance and exit ramps to access the outbound Dan Ryan. There also will be intermittent stops of no longer than 15 minutes on the ramp from the inbound Eisenhower to the outbound Kennedy during this same timeframe.

Starting at 1 a.m. Friday, the inbound Kennedy ramp to the outbound Eisenhower will be closed until 5 a.m. Traffic will be directed to continue on the Dan Ryan and the 18th Street exit and entrance ramps to access the outbound Eisenhower.

Motorists can continue to expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

The Regional Transportation Authority reminds residents to visit the RTA Trip Planner, at rtachicago.org, to find alternate means of travel using the region's public transportation system. The Chicago Transit Authority, Metra and Pace provide more than two million passenger trips each day and the region's robust system can help drivers avoid the delays that may occur due to this road construction.

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