



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 20, 2015

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Weekend Closures for Byrne Flyover Work Start Friday

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation today reminded motorists that four weekends of lane closures on the expressway system surrounding the Jane Byrne Interchange in Chicago will begin this Friday.

“We have worked closely with the City of Chicago to make sure these upcoming weekends run as smoothly as possible,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. “We wish to stress that Chicago remains open for business and people should continue to enjoy all the city has to offer. But they do need to plan accordingly, account for some longer travel times and should strongly consider taking alternate routes or public transportation, especially if they are driving during the overnight hours.”

The closures are necessary 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), part of the larger overhaul of the Jane Byrne Interchange.

To stage and store equipment and materials, the inbound Kennedy Expressway (eastbound Interstate 90/94) ramp to inbound Congress Parkway closed Wednesday night and will remain closed until Aug. 31. A detour route is posted utilizing the Roosevelt Road exit, Jefferson Street, Harrison Street and Wells Street to connect with Congress Parkway.

Over the next two weekends, the following ramps and lanes will be closed, weather permitting:

Aug. 21-23 and Aug. 28-30

- Inbound Congress Parkway (eastbound I-290) at the Byrne Interchange will close at 10 p.m. both Fridays. Traffic can still access the I-90/94 exit ramps.

A detour will direct traffic to the outbound Dan Ryan’s Roosevelt Road exit, Jefferson Street, Harrison Street and Wells Street to connect with Congress Parkway.

- Outbound Eisenhower (I-290) at the Byrne Interchange will close by 10 p.m. both

Fridays. Traffic can still access the I-90/94 exit ramps.

A detour will direct traffic to Wells Street, Harrison Street, Jefferson Street, Van Buren Street and Ashland Avenue to connect with the Eisenhower. Lower Wacker Drive also will follow this same detour.

- Both directions of the Kennedy and Dan Ryan (I-90/94) between Ohio Street and 18th Street will be reduced to one lane at 8 p.m. Saturday, with all lanes closed for 15-minute intervals between 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. All lanes on the Kennedy and Dan Ryan will be reopened by 10 a.m. Sunday.

A recommended detour will direct traffic in both directions to the outbound Eisenhower's Ashland Avenue exit and entrance ramps to access the Kennedy and Dan Ryan again from the inbound Eisenhower.

- All lanes on Congress Parkway will reopen and the previous traffic configuration will be restored by 5 a.m. Monday.

Motorists can expect significant 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. Those merely traveling through the region and seeking to avoid the work zone are advised to use Interstate 80, Interstate 39, Interstate 294 (Tri-State Tollway), Interstate 355 (Veterans Memorial Tollway) and Lake Shore Drive.

The IDOT's Emergency Traffic Patrol (Minutemen) and Illinois State Police (ISP) will have extra patrols in the work zone.

"Troopers will increase patrols in the affected areas during the weeks ahead to strictly enforce work zone speed limits," said ISP District Chicago Capt. David Byrd. "Work zones are dangerous for workers and motorists alike. Uneven payment and multiple lane closures can increase the dangers for everyone involved. Slow down and be prepared to stop when entering a work zone."

Dynamic Message Signs and traffic control aides with the city's Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) will be deployed throughout the immediate area and on the detour routes to help maintain the flow of traffic. Additionally, OEMC has identified cameras within its network in the vicinity of the project and will monitor conditions accordingly. An IDOT representative will also be co-located in OEMC's Operations Center while construction is actively occurring to ensure timely and effective communication and coordination among the City and State at all times.

For those traveling in Chicago, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is suspending the start of any new projects on streets along the detour routes to minimize the impact to traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods. Also, weather permitting, CDOT is accelerating completion of repaving projects along the detour routes.

“We want people to be able to travel through Chicago’s downtown with the least possible disruption and we’re working to minimize any other impacts on the detour routes. However, festivals such as Taste of Greektown and the West Loop Art Fest are both happening this weekend,” CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld said. “We encourage people to avoid the Jane Byrne Interchange during these weekends by using alternative routes or public transit.”

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is adding additional rail service to accommodate customers who choose transit over driving downtown this weekend. Beginning Friday evening, the CTA will operate longer trains on the Red, Blue, Brown, Green and Pink lines. Although CTA buses will follow normal routes, customers should expect delays due to added congestion. Passengers are encouraged to use CTA rail service when traveling downtown or to allow extra travel time. For more information, visit www.transitchicago.com.

The Regional Transportation Authority reminds residents to visit the RTA Trip Planner, at www.rtachicago.org, to find alternate means of travel using the region’s public transportation system. The CTA, 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.

The final two weekends of closures are anticipated to have less of an impact and will take place Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 16-18.

The new flyover will replace an existing single-lane, winding ramp with a two-lane ramp and bridge that begins just south of Roosevelt Road and arches over Harrison Street, the rest of the Jane Byrne Interchange and Halsted Street before connecting to the outbound Eisenhower near Morgan Street. When it is complete next summer, the flyover will improve efficiency, traffic flow and safety for the approximately 400,000 motorists that drive through the Jane Byrne Interchange each day.

The overall Jane Byrne Interchange project will relieve congestion at one of the country’s worst bottlenecks. The interchange where the Dan Ryan, Eisenhower and Kennedy expressways and Congress Parkway meet was built in the 1950s and 1960s and has long outlived its original design.

Please visit www.circleinterchange.org for complete project details and closure information, including a streaming high-resolution view of the work zone. For regular updates on this and other projects, follow IDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

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