

MCHEMRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS- 5/4/17

Illinois Route 23 Bridge Project at the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway

The Illinois Route 23 Bridge Project underway now is removing the existing bridge built in the 1950s to carry Illinois Route 23 traffic over the original I-90 Tollway and building a new longer and wider bridge in its place.

The Tollway has coordinated bridge design and reconstruction with the City of Marengo and McHenry County officials to accommodate a proposed future interchange at Illinois Route 23 and I-90.

Construction of the new bridge is on schedule to be complete this year.

IL Route 23 Interchange at the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway

The Illinois Tollway supports the efforts by McHenry County and Marengo for an interchange at Illinois Route 23 and the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90).

The Tollway, the county, the city and others have been working together to advance this project.

This interchange is an ideal candidate. Expanded access in this area will assist in enhancing the economy of the region and creating and retaining jobs.

There is strong support for this project, and the commitment of local funds for the advance design and engineering work meets the local participation requirements outlined in the Tollway's Interchange and Roadway Cost-Sharing Policy, which includes cost sharing provisions.

Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294)

The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors has agreed to move forward with planning for a \$4 billion rebuilding project on the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) between Balmoral Avenue and 95th Street. This project will increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability.

To fund these additional improvements, the Tollway Board agreed to expand the Tollway's *Move Illinois* Program commitment to more than \$14 billion in spending over 15 years without an increase in toll rates.

The Tollway will be able to fund the \$4 billion project without an increase in current toll rates through additional bonding in 2023 and 2024 supported by incremental revenue from additional lanes on the Central Tri-State and lower debt service for bonds already issued.

This is the only remaining segment of the original Tollway system constructed in the 1950s that has not been improved and modernized to meet current and future transportation needs.

Planning and design work for improvements includes:

- Building additional lanes, including integrating a Flex Lane through the full length of the corridor, which is a wide inside shoulder with access controlled through the use of SmartRoad technology.

- Delivering improvements at the two major system interchanges at I-290 and I-55.
- Providing for regional stormwater solutions in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and individual communities.
- Consider additional noisewalls, aesthetics and quality-of-life improvements such as local park enhancements, tree plantings and bike and pedestrian connections.
- Considering new truck parking opportunities to reduce freight congestion and access.

Why Expand

In the current *Move Illinois* Program, \$1.9 billion was originally budgeted to replace the old pavement and bring the roadway, bridges and ramps into good repair.

Further review of the corridor and discussions with local communities and external stakeholders indicated that the Central Tri- State is too vital to the Tollway system and the Chicago region to reconstruct without making improvements to address issues that include traffic congestion, access, flooding and freight concerns.

Reconstructing the roadway without making any improvements would leave that segment incapable of accommodating current and future travel needs.

- Congestion relief unresolved
- Choke points and bottlenecks remain
- Reconstruction insufficient for current and future travel needs
- Unaddressed needs of adjacent communities
- Unable to achieve long-term value from \$1.9 billion investment

Next Steps:

Tollway staff is working with stakeholders, customers, partners, communities, residents and businesses to complete a master plan for \$2.1 billion in additional improvements to complement the \$1.9 billion rebuilding project already approved for the project.

Outreach efforts will include:

- Establish community and stakeholder working groups
- Continue individual community briefings and coordination and public outreach
- Coordinate with railroads, utilities, businesses and other agencies
- Continue to collaborate with partners on major system Interchanges