



State of Illinois  
Pat Quinn, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 6, 2014

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## \*\*\*Major Traffic Reminder\*\*\*

### IDOT: Full Weekend Closures of I-90/94 (Kennedy Expressway), Ohio/Ontario Feeder Ramp & Reversibles Begin June 13

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reminds motorists that weather permitting, demolition of the westbound Ontario Street Bridge to eastbound I-90/94 over I-90/94 (Kennedy Expressway), will begin Friday, June 13, 2014.

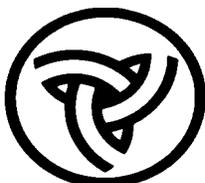
This large-scale demolition will occur over the course of **three** separate weekends. Due to the type of bridge, a three-unit, eight-span, concrete structure with the supporting columns constructed integral into the bridge, it cannot be disassembled in pieces, but rather must be removed one unit at a time. The demolition schedule is as follows:

#### **JUNE 13, 14, 15**

10 p.m. Friday – 5 a.m. Monday- **Closure of eastbound I-90/94 and EB reversible lanes**

Removal of first portion (unit 2 over EB I-90/94): EB Kennedy will be closed from Chicago to Grand and one lane in the westbound direction. Beginning at Diversey, lanes of EB I-90/94 will be reduced to two lanes. Traffic will be diverted from demolition site onto EB Ohio Street exit using temporary pavement back to I-90/94.

- Exit onto Western Avenue as an alternative from I-90 to I-290
- Lake Shore Drive remains open in both directions
- I-55 and I-290 can be utilized by motorists traveling from the South and West sides of the city



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## **JUNE 20, 21, 22**

10 p.m. Friday – 5 a.m. Monday- **Closure of westbound I-90/94 and reversible lanes**

Removal of second portion (unit 1 over WB I-90/94): WB Kennedy will be closed from Grand to Ogden. Beginning at Congress Parkway, lanes of WB I-90/94 will be reduced to two lanes. Diverted traffic will exit at EB Ohio Street to Orleans and loop back to WB I-90/94. The intersection at Orleans Street will be reconfigured and restriped to allow free-flow movements.

- Motorists using the Dan Ryan expressway exit at 35<sup>th</sup> St., head west over to Ashland Avenue then north on Ashland Avenue to I-90
- Ontario St. feeder ramp will be closed
- Outbound entrance ramps from Jackson to Randolph will be closed
- Lake Shore Drive remains open in both directions
- I-55 and I-290 can be utilized by motorists traveling from the South and West sides of the city

## **JUNE 27, 28, 29**

10 p.m. Friday – 5 a.m. Monday- **Closure of eastbound I-90/94 exit to Ohio Street**

Removal of last portion (unit 3 over the EB Ramp to Ohio Street): Both directions of I-90/94 And the reversible will be open. Ohio Street exit ramp will be closed.

The removal of the westbound Ontario Street to eastbound I-90/94 ramp structure will have a significant impact on traffic in and around the system. An estimated 260,000 vehicles travel along I-90/94 per day.

This project is a \$ 16.5 million improvement to the Ontario Street entrance onto the Kennedy Expressway as part of the Ohio Street interchange project. This structure will be replaced with a three-span, steel girder structure over I-90/94 and a single span, steel girder structure over the eastbound I-90/94 to eastbound Ohio Street exit ramp. It also involves the extension and deck beam replacement of the westbound Ontario Street to westbound I-90/94 ramp tunnel structure.

Other minor work includes the construction of a retaining wall along the westbound Ontario Street to eastbound I-90/94 ramp, drainage improvements and new roadway lighting under the tunnel structure.

Motorists can expect significant delays and back-ups and should seek alternate routes. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers, watch for signing in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, and be on the alert for workers and equipment. Mass transit is



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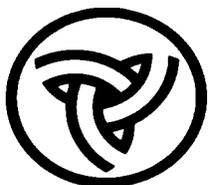
strongly encouraged. **Large trucks and 18-wheel trucks should stay on the expressway system, in the right lane and will not be allowed to take the local traffic alternates on arterial streets of the city.**

Detour routes, alternate routes and information about this project can be found at <http://www.dot.il.gov/KennedyatOhio/detour.html>

Public Transportation information can be found at: [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) and [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com)

Updates on the impacts to traffic are available at [www.travelmidwest.com](http://www.travelmidwest.com)

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