



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 19, 2022

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Inspections on I-80 bridges over Des Plaines River

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that a routine inspection of the Interstate 80 bridges over the Des Plaines River, in Joliet, will begin, weather permitting, Monday, May 2.

To complete the inspections, daily lane closures will be required, starting with the westbound bridge until May 9, when inspections begin on the eastbound bridge. Inspections on both bridges are expected to be complete by May 14, weather permitting.

To minimize the impact to traffic, the closures will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Saturdays, if necessary. A minimum of two lanes in both directions will remain open during inspections.

Motorists can 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 replacement of the Des Plaines River bridges and larger improvements to I-80 in Will County are a cornerstone project in Gov. JB Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital program, which will invest \$33.2 billion in transportation infrastructure across all modes throughout the state.

Advance work on I-80 started last summer with a \$41.7 million project to replace the eastbound bridges over Hickory Creek, Richards Street, Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad, and westbound over Richards Street, in Joliet, Rockdale and New Lenox, while widening eastbound I-80 from Gardner Street to Rowell Avenue. Once the eastbound improvements are completed this year, similar improvements will begin in the westbound direction.

Later this year, the section from Ridge Road to the DuPage River will be under construction as land acquisition progresses, and final engineering is completed on replacement of the Des Plaines River bridges. Improvements will begin from Ridge Road to U.S. 30 in 2023, leaving construction of the Des Plaines River bridges and Center Street and U.S. 52/Illinois 53 (Chicago Street) interchanges in 2026 and 2027.

When it wraps up in 2027, the estimated \$1.2 billion overall I-80 project will have redesigned and rebuilt 16 miles from Ridge Road, in Minooka, to U.S. 30, in Joliet and New Lenox, while adding or extending auxiliary lanes to improve safety and reduce congestion. Interchanges will have been rebuilt or improved at Interstate 55, Illinois 7, Center Street, Chicago Street, Richards Street and Briggs Street, with a new flyover ramp linking southbound I-55 to westbound I-80 to improve traffic flow and safety. More than 30 bridges will have been rehabilitated or replaced.

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