



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
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Traffic changes for Illinois River bridge work in Ottawa begin Aug. 9

OTTAWA – The Illinois Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Township High School, announced today the following traffic changes on the Illinois 23/71 Illinois River bridge in advance of classes resuming at Ottawa Township High School on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

- Southbound Illinois 23 (La Salle Street): Through traffic should use the far-right lane. Traffic turning onto Main Street to the high school should use the far-left lane.
- Northbound Illinois 23 (Columbus Street) will see the intersection with Main Street police-controlled during peak school traffic times.
- School drop-off zones will be modified to minimize disruption to Illinois 23 traffic. As such, all drop-offs before school and pick-ups after school for students will take place in the OTHS student parking lot.
- Beginning 30 minutes before the start of the school day (7:30 a.m.) until 15 minutes after the start of the school day (8:15 a.m.), all westbound traffic on Main Street will be prohibited. Also, beginning 15 minutes prior to the dismissal time of 2:05 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. until Aug. 30 on school days, all westbound traffic on Main Street will be prohibited. During the times when westbound traffic is not allowed on Main Street, all vehicle traffic will be routed east on Main Street to Green Street.
- The Illinois 23 bridge east sidewalk will be closed for repairs. Pedestrians crossing from the south side of the river should cross over to the west side of Illinois 23 using the Center Street crosswalk. Pedestrians crossing from the north side of the river should utilize the river walk under the bridge to reach the west sidewalk.

Work consists of removing and replacing the bridge expansion joints, deck slab patching and structural repairs. One lane will remain open during the \$2.6 million project, which is scheduled to be completed by fall.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices, and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,535 miles of highway and 9 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Two included approximately \$5.2 billion in improvements statewide on 3,020 miles of highway and 270 bridges along with 428 additional safety improvements.

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