



State of Illinois  
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Illinois Department of Transportation  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Richards Street ramp to eastbound I-80 in Joliet to close Oct. 17

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that as part of the ongoing efforts to replace the eastbound Interstate 80 bridges over Hickory Creek, Richards Street, Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad, and westbound over Richards Street, in Joliet, Rockdale and New Lenox, the Richards Street ramp to eastbound I-80 is scheduled to be closed beginning, weather permitting, Monday, Oct. 17.

The closure is necessary to reconstruct the ramp and is anticipated to reopen in late fall. A detour will direct motorists to use the Richards Street ramp to westbound I-80, exit Chicago Street (U.S. 52/Illinois 53) and reenter I-80 eastbound.

Additionally, the eastbound I-80 ramp to Richards Street is closed for reconstruction, with an anticipated reopening in late fall. The posted detour directs traffic to exit Briggs Street and reenter westbound I-80 to access the Richards Street exit.

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.

Plans are being finalized on the overall I-80 project that will redesign and rebuild 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 are planned to be 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 eastbound I-80 to improve traffic flow and safety. More than 30 bridges are planned to be rehabilitated or replaced, including those over the Des Plaines River.

For more information visit [I80will.org](http://I80will.org). The mobile-friendly website features project information, photos, and the ability to submit questions and comments to the project team via a “Contact” link. Find traffic and road conditions at [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com). You also can follow IDOT on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/illinoisdot) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/illinoisdot).

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