

State of Illinois JB Pritzker, Governor









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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Inbound Kennedy work nearing completion, work zone removal, lanes reopen this week

Three overnight closures starting Thursday to complete project's first year

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that the inbound Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94) rehabilitation project, from the Edens Expressway (Interstate 94) junction to Ohio Street, is nearing completion. A sequenced reopening to remove the work zone is scheduled to begin, weather permitting, Thursday, Dec. 7.

To safely remove barricades and apply new pavement markings, overnight lane and ramp closures will be required on the inbound Kennedy and Edens expressways. At least one inbound lane will remain open at all times.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- Starting at 8 p.m., the inbound Kennedy will be reduced to one lane between Kimball and Milwaukee avenues.
- At the same time, intermittent ramp closures between Belmont/Kedzie Avenue and Division Street will take place.
- Starting at midnight, the reversible express lanes will be fully closed.

By 5 a.m. Friday the inbound Kennedy (lanes/ramps) will be fully reopened from Kimball Avenue heading south. The express lanes will remain open in the inbound direction only.

Friday, Dec. 8

- Starting at 8 p.m., the inbound Kennedy will be reduced to one lane between Keeler and Kimball avenues.
- At the same time, intermittent ramp closures between Keeler and Kimball avenues will also take place.
- The reversible express lanes will remain open.

By 8 a.m. Saturday the inbound Kennedy (lanes/ramps) will be fully reopened from Keeler Avenue heading south. The express lanes will remain open in the inbound direction only.

Monday, Dec. 11

- Starting at 8 p.m., the inbound Kennedy will be reduced to one lane from north of the Edens junction to Keeler Avenue.
- At the same time, the reversible express lanes entrance at Montrose Avenue (Kennedy and Edens) will be closed. Motorists will be able to access the express lanes at Diversey Avenue.
- Inbound Kennedy, intermittent closures of all ramps between Montrose and Keeler avenues.
- Inbound Edens ramp closures, Wilson Avenue (entrance and exit), Elston Avenue (entrance)

By 5 a.m. Tuesday, the inbound Kennedy and Edens expressways as well as lanes and ramps will be fully reopened and the reversible express lanes will resume normal operations.

The work and schedule are highly weather dependent. If the overnight work on Friday and Monday is canceled due to the weather, it will be rescheduled to the first available night(s) that conditions allow. In that event, details, schedules and impacts to traffic will be updated and shared with the public.

Motorists should still expect occasional, temporary lane closures in the coming weeks to complete miscellaneous work and other punch list items. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and remain alert for workers and equipment.

Made possible by Gov. JB Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital program, the overall \$150 million Kennedy project will rehabilitate 36 bridge structures and the Reversible Lane Access Control (REVLAC) system, replace overhead sign structures, install new signage and modernized LED lights. The improvements also include pavement patching and structural painting. Hubbard's Cave, from Grand Avenue to Wayman Street, will be painted and new LED lighting installed.

The reopening of the inbound lanes ends the first year of three-year project. The express lanes will be worked on in 2024, with the project focused on the outbound Kennedy in 2025.

The Kennedy Expressway officially opened in 1960, with the last major rehabilitation completed in 1994. The project will improve safety, traffic flow and reliability for the more than 275,000 motorists who use the expressway each day.

Over the <u>next six years</u>, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 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. <u>Accomplishments</u> through Year Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements.

For more information on the project, visit https://idot.illinois.gov/projects/Interstate-90-Kennedy-Bridge-Study. The website features project details, maps, photos and fact sheets. The public can email questions to DOT.KennedyRehab@illinois.gov. For systemwide traffic and road conditions, visit www.gettingaroundillinois.com. You also can follow IDOT on Facebook and Twitter.