

# KENNEDY EXPRESSWAY BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT FAQ



## Q: Why is this work being done now?

**A:** The 50-year-old bridge structures along the Kennedy Expressway were last repaired in 2013 and are due for rehabilitation.

## Q: What is the scope of the work being done?

**A:** Over three years, 36 bridge structures are being rehabilitated over the Interstate 90-94 Kennedy Expressway. Additional work includes pavement patching, REVLAC system rehabilitation, overhead sign structure replacements, LED lighting improvements and structural painting. In 2023 and 2024, construction on the inbound lanes and REVLAC system were completed. Outbound lane construction will be completed in 2025.

## Q: What are the major benefits of this project?

**A:** Once completed, this project will reduce maintenance costs, increase safety and provide improved traffic flow for I-90/I-94.

## Q: Are there any additional benefits of this rehabilitation?

**A:** We are using latex concrete that will have a lifespan of up to 25 years.

## Q: How long will the project last?

**A:** The project is on track to be completed in three years, from 2023 to 2025.

## Q: Who will be impacted the most by this work?

**A:** Daily commuters, commercial traffic and people traveling through the area.

## Q: What is the average daily traffic for I-90?

**A:** Approximately 275,000 vehicles a day.

## Q: What is being done to minimize the impact to traffic in the area?

**A:** We are ensuring that four lanes of traffic will be available for inbound and outbound travelers during construction. Each stage will only last one construction season and work is not expected to extend into the winter, which will help to mitigate traffic impacts during winter months.

## Q: Will there be any impacts to the CTA Blue Line during construction?

**A:** No. In fact, we encourage commuters and travelers to look at other transportation options like the CTA and Metra during construction.

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## Q: Were there any public meetings for this project?

**A:** Since this is a rehabilitation project, a more abbreviated process moving from Phase I to Phase III was allowed. During Phase II, city aldermen were sent letters with information about the project and an invitation to meet to discuss the project further.

## Q: Will there be any way for the public to follow progress on the project?

**A:** Yes, updates will be handled through:

- Our project-specific website
- Social media
- IDOT in Motion District 1 email list
- Dynamic message signs to inform the public of any changes within the corridor
- Press releases available [online](#)

## Q: If people have questions about the project, who should they contact?

**A:** All questions can be sent to [dot.kennedyrehab@illinois.gov](mailto:dot.kennedyrehab@illinois.gov).

## Q: Has the overall cost of the project increased from \$150 million?

**A:** At the beginning of Year Three, the estimated cost of the project is \$169 million. Extra work was added to the project for additional pavement and bridge repairs.

## Q: How many outbound and inbound lanes will be open in 2025?

**A:** Four lanes will remain open at all times with intermittent nightly lane closures.

## Q: Will the reversible lanes be open for inbound and outbound use during 2025 construction?

**A:** The express lanes will remain open outbound throughout the 2025 construction season.

- **Stage I (March – Mid-July):** Two left lanes closed on the mainline. The express lanes will exit onto the Edens Expressway only, with no entry or exits at the mid-gate. Once in the express lanes, the first available exit is Foster Avenue. If motorists want to head toward O'Hare Airport, they must stay on the mainline Kennedy. There is no express lane exit for O'Hare traffic.
- **Stage II (Mid-July – Thanksgiving):** Two right lanes closed on the mainline from Division Avenue to north end of project with various ramp closures. The express lanes will continue operating outbound. However, outbound traffic will be permitted to exit at Keeler Avenue/Kostner Avenue back onto the mainline Kennedy and Edens Expressways. Traffic will also be permitted to exit toward O'Hare and the Edens Expressway where the express lanes end.

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**Q: What if I need to go to O'Hare Airport and I mistakenly get into the reversible lanes?**

**A:** Stay in the reversible lanes and exit onto westbound Foster Avenue then head to the westbound Kennedy ramp.

**Q: How many ramp exits/entrances will be closed? How long will ramps be closed?**

**A:** The project includes the closure of 26 entrance and exit ramps for varying durations. As closure dates approach, press releases will provide details on the specific ramps affected and the timeframe for each closure.

**Q: Will the outbound traffic pattern be the same throughout the duration of the project?**

**A:** This contract consists of multiple stages. The public will be informed of any changes before they take effect.

**Q: What adjustments are being made this year to accelerate 2025 construction?**

**A:** A revised traffic stage is being reviewed to allow for early completion of the north end of the project from Addison Street to Wilson Avenue and a proposal by the contractor is being reviewed.

**Q: When will the last phase be complete?**

**A:** The anticipated completion date is Thanksgiving.

