



Cole's Clipboard

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SANDY COLE

Grand Avenue (Route 132) Update **Important Information Regarding Closures and Travel Time**

The Grand Avenue Bridge over the North Tri-State (I-94) is being rebuilt and lengthened as part of the North Tri-State "Rebuild and Widen" Project from Dempster Street to the Wisconsin State Line. This project is part of the Tollway's Congestion Relief Plan. Initial impact to drivers will be lane closures on the Grand Avenue bridge expected through late July, followed by the closure of the southbound exit ramp from I-94 to eastbound Grand Avenue in early August. Completion of the project is scheduled for fall of 2009.

Please be aware that during this construction period, there will a significant increase in traffic on Milwaukee Avenue (Route 21) and Route 120 for Libertyville, Wildwood and Gurnee residents; and on Hunt Club Road, Stearns School Road and Dilley's Road for Gurnee and Grandwood Park residents. Be sure to allow yourself extra time to get to your destination.

Rebuilding and lengthening the Grand Avenue Bridge will allow the Tollway to widen I-94 underneath Grand Avenue to provide congestion relief and reduce travel times. Construction throughout a 45-mile corridor in Cook and Lake Counties began in 2007 and mainline work is scheduled to be complete in 2010.

Beginning in mid-July, westbound traffic on Grand Avenue will be reduced to one lane for approximately two weeks as pavement repair work and installation of temporary traffic signals begins. Work to remove the center median to accommodate traffic shifts during construction is also scheduled. The bridge work is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation and officials from Lake County and the villages of Gurnee and Green Oaks to minimize the impact to drivers, however delays are expected.

Throughout the bridge reconstruction project, one through lane in each direction and the westbound auxiliary lane on Grand Avenue will be maintained. The main impacts on the Tri-State Tollway will be shoulder closures and temporary overnight lane closures for bridge demolition and reconstruction including beam erection activities. Mainline lane closures will be permitted off-peak only to minimize the impact to traffic.

Beginning in early August, the ramp carrying southbound I-94 traffic exiting to eastbound Grand Avenue is scheduled to close to traffic until 2009 for reconstruction of the ramp. The ramp is being reconstructed and realigned to accommodate the longer bridge. A detour will be posted directing traffic to continue southbound on I-94 and to exit at Milwaukee Avenue, and then head north on Milwaukee Avenue to reach Grand Avenue.

A 45 m.p.h. speed limit is in effect 24/7 in all construction zones, whether or not workers are present. Drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution, especially when workers are present. Illinois State Police have stated that they have zero tolerance for drivers speeding in work zones. The minimum penalty for speeding in a work zone is \$375. Posted signs advise motorists of a \$10,000 fine and 14-year jail sentence for hitting a roadway worker.

The Tollway offers a variety of ways for drivers to get the latest information on construction and traffic on our roads:

- **www.illinoistollway.com** – Construction Section – for details by road
- **1-800-TOLL-FYI** – daily lane closure info
- **Roadway and electronic signs** www.gcmtravel.com – travel times
- **Sign up for E-mail updates**

Up-to-the-minute traffic by road – www.nbc5.com
Construction eNewsletter – www.illinoistollway.com

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