

Second Weekend of Jane Byrne Closures Start Friday

The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding motorists that the second of four weekends of lane closures on the expressway system surrounding the Jane Byrne Interchange in Chicago takes place starting Friday evening. This weekend's closures will impact the same routes and follow the same schedule as last weekend.

"While we understand these closures are an inconvenience, the public's cooperation has been outstanding as well as a critical part of making this project a success," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn. "We continue to stress that Chicago remains open for business. But if you are near the downtown area this weekend, you need to plan accordingly, follow the detours, expect delays and look for alternate routes. Public transportation is highly recommended."

The closures are necessary for the installation of steel beams that will support the deck of the new flyover bridge linking the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway (westbound Interstate 90/94) to the outbound Eisenhower Expressway (westbound Interstate 290), part of the larger overhaul of the Jane Byrne Interchange.

A time-lapse video from the work that took place last weekend can be viewed at IDOT's YouTube channel and on the project website at www.circleinterchange.org.

The following ramps and lanes will be closed, weather permitting:

- Inbound Congress Parkway (eastbound I-290) at the Byrne Interchange will close at 10 p.m. Friday. Traffic can still access the I-90/94 exit ramps.
 - A detour will direct traffic to the outbound Dan Ryan's Roosevelt Road exit, Jefferson Street, Harrison Street and Wells Street to connect with Congress Parkway.
- Outbound Eisenhower (I-290) at the Byrne Interchange will close at 10 p.m. Friday. Traffic can still access the I-90/94 exit ramps.
 - A detour will direct traffic to Wells Street, Harrison Street, Jefferson Street, Van Buren Street and Ashland Avenue to connect with the Eisenhower. Lower Wacker Drive also will follow this same detour.
- Both directions of the Kennedy and Dan Ryan (I-90/94) between Ohio Street and 18th Street will be reduced to one lane at 8 p.m. Saturday, with all lanes closed for 15-minute intervals between 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. All lanes on the Kennedy and Dan Ryan will be reopened by 10 a.m. Sunday.
 - A recommended detour will direct traffic in both directions to the outbound Eisenhower's Ashland Avenue exit and entrance ramps to access the Kennedy and Dan Ryan again from the inbound Eisenhower.

All lanes on Congress Parkway will reopen and the previous traffic configuration will be restored by 5 a.m. Monday.

To stage and store equipment and materials, the inbound Kennedy Expressway (eastbound Interstate 90/94) ramp to inbound Congress Parkway remains closed until Aug 31. A detour route is posted utilizing the Roosevelt Road exit, Jefferson Street, Harrison Street and Wells Street to connect with Congress Parkway.

Motorists can expect significant 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. The IDOT's Emergency Traffic Patrol (Minutemen) and Illinois State Police (ISP) will have extra patrols in the work zone.

Dynamic Message Signs and traffic control aides with the city's Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) will be throughout the immediate area and on the detour routes to help maintain the flow of traffic. Motorists merely traveling through the region and seeking to avoid the work zone are advised to use Interstate 80, Interstate 39, Interstate 294 (Tri-State Tollway), Interstate 355 (Veterans Memorial Tollway) and Lake Shore Drive.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is adding additional rail service to accommodate customers who choose transit over driving downtown this weekend. Beginning Friday evening, the CTA will operate longer trains on the Red, Blue, Brown, Green and Pink lines. Although CTA buses will follow normal routes, customers should expect delays due to added congestion. Passengers are encouraged to use CTA rail service when traveling downtown or to allow extra travel time. For more information, visit www.transitchicago.com.

The Regional Transportation Authority reminds residents to visit the RTA Trip Planner, at www.rtachicago.org, to find alternate means of travel using the region's public transportation system.

The final two weekends of closures are anticipated to have less of an impact and will take place Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 16-18.

The new flyover will replace an existing single-lane, winding ramp with a two-lane ramp and bridge that begins just south of Roosevelt Road and arches over Harrison Street, the rest of the Jane Byrne Interchange and Halsted Street before connecting to the outbound Eisenhower near Morgan Street.

Please visit www.circleinterchange.org for complete project details and closure information, including a streaming high-resolution view of the work zone. For regular updates on this and other projects, follow IDOT on Facebook and Twitter.



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