



State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**CONTACT:**  
Maria Castaneda 312.814.4693  
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199

## **I-55 reduced to lane in each direction Monday**

### *Will County project to replace bridge decks officially kicks off*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public that Interstate 55 south of Arsenal Road in Will County will be reduced to one lane in each direction, weather permitting, the morning of Monday, March 16. The lane closures are needed to start the second and final year of a project to replace the I-55 bridge decks over the BNSF Railroad and Grant Creek.

Weekend lane closures on northbound I-55 will continue tonight. Starting at 9 p.m., northbound I-55 will be reduced to a single lane between River Road and Arsenal Road. The closures are necessary to make temporary pavement repairs so northbound I-55 can accommodate both directions of traffic when work resumes on replacing the southbound I-55 bridge decks.

At 5 a.m. Monday, I-55 will be reduced to a single lane in both directions. Later this construction season, I-55 will remain one lane in each direction but shift to the southbound lanes while the northbound bridge decks are replaced.

The entire project is due to wrap up and all lanes reopen in late fall.

Backups and congestion approaching the work zone should be anticipated at all times. Motorists must slow down, put down their phones and devices, avoid all distractions and give their undivided attention to traffic control signs and changing conditions in and around the work zone.

Special precautions again will be implemented to enhance safety. Signs will be posted several miles in advance in both directions. Temporary rumble strips also will be installed to alert approaching motorists. The work zone speed limit will be reduced to 45 mph, with Illinois State Police dedicating special patrols in the area at all times to enforce all traffic laws.

Additionally, a dynamic merge system, commonly referred to as a zipper merge, will be used this year to help manage congestion and reduce travel times through the work zone. Digital message signs will advise motorists when to move out of the left lane and prepare to enter the work zone. During uncongested traffic, motorists will be instructed to slow down and move to the right lane well in advance of the work zone. During more congested periods, drivers will be encouraged to use both lanes, taking turns merging into the open lane at the point the left lane is closed.

Click [here](#) to find details on other construction projects in IDOT's District 1. Updates on the impacts to traffic are available at [www.travelmidwest.com](http://www.travelmidwest.com).

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