



**State of Illinois**  
Bruce Rauner, Governor



**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

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Dixon, IL – The Illinois Department of Transportation announces today that construction work on the I-74 Illinois approach to the Mississippi River bridge will begin on Monday, March 28, 2016. Civil Constructors is starting the \$4.4 million project to make repairs to the viaduct structure carrying I-74 from south of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Mississippi River bridge.

The project involves removing the existing wearing surface on the ½ mile long structure, making repairs to the concrete bridge deck, replacing expansion joints, completing structural steel repairs, and placing a new wearing surface. Work will also be completed on the ramps for the Third Avenue/River Drive and Seventh Avenue interchanges that will require closing the ramps that are being repaired. The I-74 travel lane will only be 10 feet wide so motorists should slow down and drive carefully through the work zone.

The first stage of the construction project will restrict traffic to the two inside lanes of I-74. The outside lane in each direction will be closed as will the two ramps at Third Avenue/River Drive. With the River Drive interchange ramps closed, traffic entering and exiting I-74 will be detoured to the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange where all ramps will be open.

On the Iowa side of the river, the southbound entrance ramp to I-74 from State Street will be closed. Traffic wanting to go to Illinois will need to use the Grant Street entrance ramp. This ramp closure at State Street will be in effect during the entire project.

Following completion of the River Drive ramp repairs and the north expansion joints, I-74 traffic will be switched to the outside driving lane and repairs will be made to the inside lane in each direction. During this stage of the project all interchange ramps will be open in Illinois.

The last stage of the project is to work on the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue ramps and the expansion joints at the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange. During this construction, the southbound exit ramp from I-74 to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the entrance ramp from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Iowa-bound I-74 will be closed. Traffic will be detoured to the River Drive interchange while the two 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue ramps are closed.

Motorists should be alert for the lane closures and merging traffic lanes in the construction zone. Drivers should anticipate short delays and allow extra time for trips using I-74 to cross the Mississippi River. A traffic monitoring system will be used to warn motorists with signs and flashing lights when “Stopped or Slow Traffic” is ahead.

The project is scheduled to be completed and all lanes open by mid-August.

Please slow down and use extreme caution while driving through all work zones.

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