



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Feb. 25, 2021

CONTACT:
Maria Castaneda 312.447.1919
Guy Tridgell 312.343.1731

This weekend closures on outbound Kennedy

Second of three sections of the Montrose Avenue bridge to be removed

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public that as part of ongoing efforts to rebuild Montrose Avenue over the Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94), weekend lane and ramp closures continue tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 26. The closures are necessary to safely remove the existing Montrose Avenue bridge over the expressway. The closure, originally scheduled for Jan. 29, was postponed due to inclement weather.

To avoid closing the expressway entirely and to minimize the impact to traffic, the north portion of the bridge will be removed over three weekends. The first segment, over the inbound lanes of the expressway, was removed last month.

Starting at 9 p.m. Friday, weather permitting, the outbound Kennedy approaching Diversey Avenue gradually will be reduced to a single lane, with all traffic diverted into the express lanes by midnight. Outbound Kennedy traffic will continue onto the outbound Edens Expressway and not be able to exit until Foster Avenue. The outbound Edens exit ramp to Wilson Avenue will also be closed.

The outbound Kennedy exit ramp to Montrose Avenue will close at noon Friday, along with the following ramps closing at 9 p.m.

- Entrance ramps - Armitage, Fullerton/Western, California and Kimball avenues, Addison Street and Irving Park Road (Illinois 19).
- Exit ramps – Diversey, Kedzie/Belmont, Kimball avenues, Addison Street, Pulaski/Irving Park roads, Kostner and Montrose avenues.

All lanes and ramps will reopen, with the express lanes resuming their normal operations, by 5 a.m. Monday, March 1.

Pedestrians accessing the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line station at Montrose Avenue can expect intermittent 15-minute sidewalk closures between 1 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, and noon Sunday, Feb. 28.

Removal of the third and last section of the north portion of the bridge, over the Blue Line station and the express lanes, will be scheduled for early spring.

The overall Montrose Avenue improvements include removing and replacing the existing bridge and approach pavement, upgrading existing lighting and installing lighting under the bridge and over the CTA station. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

While the bridge is being replaced, Montrose Avenue traffic is detoured to Cicero Avenue (Illinois 50), Irving Park Road and Pulaski Road.

Motorists can expect 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 remain alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,300 miles of highway and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Year One included approximately \$2.7 billion of improvements statewide on 1,706 miles of highway, 128 bridges and 228 additional safety improvements.

For more information on IDOT projects, click [here](#). Find traffic and road conditions at www.gettingaroundillinois.com. You also can follow IDOT on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###