



State of Illinois
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Weekend closures on Kennedy, Edens at Montrose

Montrose Avenue bridge removal to take place over three weekends

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that as part of ongoing efforts to rebuild Montrose Avenue over the Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94), lane and ramp closures are scheduled over three nights starting, weather permitting, Friday, Jan. 22. The closures are necessary to safely remove the existing north portion of the Montrose Avenue bridge over the expressway. The south structure was removed and rebuilt last year.

The bridge, a cast-in-place, three-unit concrete structure, will be removed one unit at a time. To avoid closing the expressway entirely and to minimize the impact to traffic, the bridge will be removed over three weekends. The first segment to be removed crosses over the inbound Kennedy.

Starting at 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, weather permitting, the inbound Kennedy and Edens expressways approaching Montrose Avenue gradually will be reduced to a single lane and all traffic directed into the inbound express lanes. Inbound traffic will continue in the express lanes and will not be able to exit until Armitage Avenue.

Additionally, the ramps from Cicero (Illinois 50), Lawrence, Wilson and Montrose avenues to the inbound expressway will be closed. Inbound ramp closures will begin at noon Friday, starting at Montrose and Wilson avenues, followed by Lawrence and Cicero avenues at 9 p.m.

All lanes and ramps will reopen, with the express lanes resuming their normal operations, by 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25.

Pedestrians accessing the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line station at Montrose Avenue can expect intermittent 15-minute sidewalk closures between 12:01 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 23, and 8 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

The second unit of the existing Montrose Avenue bridge, the portion of the structure that crosses over the Kennedy's outbound lanes, is scheduled for removal, weather permitting, the weekend of Jan. 29. Removal of the third segment, over the Blue Line station and the express lanes, will be scheduled later this winter.

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 in early summer.

While the bridge is being replaced, Montrose Avenue traffic is detoured to Cicero Avenue, Irving Park Road (Illinois 19) 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](#).

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