



State of Illinois
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Final weekend of Kennedy lane, ramp closures

Last section of Montrose Avenue bridge removed over three nights

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 closures, accompanied by 15-minute full expressway traffic stops, are scheduled over three nights starting, weather permitting, Friday, March 26. The closures are necessary to safely remove the existing Montrose Avenue bridge over the expressway.

To avoid closing the expressway entirely and to minimize the impact to traffic, the north portion of the bridge is being removed over three weekends. The first two sections have been removed. This last section crosses over the express lanes and the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line station at Montrose Avenue.

To complete the work, the outbound Kennedy approaching Addison Street will be reduced to three lanes starting at 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. At the same time, the inbound Kennedy approaching Montrose Avenue will be gradually reduced to one lane with all traffic diverted into the express lanes by midnight. Inbound traffic will continue in the express lanes and will not be able to exit until Armitage Avenue.

Starting at 1 a.m. each night, full traffic stops for no longer than 15-minutes at a time will take place on the inbound Kennedy near Montrose Avenue. Lanes will reopen by 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday and by 5 a.m. Monday.

The express lanes will be open in the inbound direction from 7 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday and the inbound Edens Expressway (Interstate 94) will not be impacted.

While the work is ongoing, the left lane on the inbound and outbound Kennedy approaching Montrose Avenue will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday. **The outbound exit ramp to Montrose Avenue will closed at noon on Friday and remain closed until 3 p.m. Tuesday.** All lanes will reopen, with the express lanes resuming their normal operations by 5 a.m. Monday, with the exit ramp to Montrose Avenue reopening 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Pedestrians accessing the Blue Line station at Montrose Avenue can also expect intermittent 15-minute sidewalk closures between 1 and 8 a.m. Saturday and between 1 and 4 a.m. Sunday and Monday.

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](#).

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