



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2011

Contact: Joelle McGinnis, ext. 2380
Jan Kemp, ext. 2381
630-241-6800
www.illinoistollway.com

SPEED LIMIT FOR CARS INCREASES ON SOUTH EXTENSION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-355) BETWEEN I-55 AND I-80

DOWNERS GROVE, IL – The Illinois Tollway today will increase the speed limit to 65 m.p.h. for cars on the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) between I-55 and I-80. Installation of the new signage to advise drivers of the new speed limit will be complete by midday.

“We are pleased that this new section of roadway built as part of our Congestion-Relief Program will be used at its full capacity,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. “This speed limit increase will help our customers reach their destinations faster, ultimately saving them time spent on the road.”

Raising the speed limit provides for safer and more efficient travel and is compatible with the 65 m.p.h. limit already in place on I-80 where it intersects with I-355. The existing 55 m.p.h. speed limit will continue to apply to trucks in this section, as well as all other Illinois interstates in the metropolitan area including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, Lake and McHenry counties.

A formal review process, including completion of an engineering study approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), coordination with Illinois State Police, and approval by the Illinois Tollway’s Board of Directors, considered numerous factors including the design speed of the highway segment, traffic speed, traffic volume, crash history, congestion and interchange spacing. Further, the state’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules considered the Tollway’s amendment last month and did not issue any objection. The decision is also in keeping with Federal Highway Administration methodologies for determining speed limits on interstate highways.

“Drivers should obey the new posted speed limit as District 15 will be enforcing the 65 m.p.h. speed limit,” said Illinois State Police District 15 Commander John Jesernik. “It is recommended that drivers move at the same pace as other traffic, within the speed limit, and slower moving vehicles should stay to the right.”

Speed Limits on Tollway System

The speed limit for cars and trucks throughout the majority of the Tollway System is 55 m.p.h. A 65 m.p.h. limit for cars is in place on the east end of the Tri-State Tollway (I-94) north of IL Route 173, on the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) west of IL Route 56, and on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) west of Randall Road. Large trucks are allowed to drive 65 m.p.h. on I-90 from approximately mile post 49 near Belvidere to the Wisconsin state line, and on I-88 from approximately mile post 99 in DeKalb and west through the IDOT portion of I-88.

About the Illinois Tollway

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 286 miles of interstate tollways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80).

#