

# **August 2019 Update.....**

The Jane Byrne (Circle) Interchange reconstruction continues at a steady pace, with work accelerating with warmer weather. The following contracts are well under construction:

- **Northeast Ramp from Dan Ryan to Inbound Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway)**  
Construction of the Northeast Ramp between the Dan Ryan northbound to the inbound Ida B. Wells Drive is complete. Due to adjacent work on the Eastbound (Inbound) Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway) bridge, the Northeast ramp will not open until the additional work is mostly complete. The ramp opening is planned for early September.
- **Westbound (Outbound) Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway)**  
Bridge rehabilitation and construction is effectively complete. Traffic continues to be staged to support the westbound mainline pavement work and other projects.
- **Westbound (Outbound) I-290 Mainline**  
The reconstruction of the westbound (outbound) lanes of the mainline Eisenhower from I-90/94 to Racine Avenue continues. The full pavement and barrier wall reconstruction work along the median has been completed and an additional portion of pavement reconstruction continues between the westbound lanes and the southbound to westbound ramp. In September, the traffic on the northbound to westbound ramp will be opened up to two lanes, along with the reopening of the Morgan Street exit ramp. The remaining work will be completed by the end of September.
- **Van Buren Street Bridge over I-90/94**  
The bridge was closed to traffic on 10/9/2017. In order to construct the proposed bridge structure, the existing ramp from the Southbound Kennedy (I-90/94) to eastbound (inbound) Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway) was closed in mid-January, 2018. The bridge and roadway was reopened to traffic on July 26, 2019 with the bus only lane remaining closed during August and September as completion work continues. The Contractor continues to complete the lighting over I-90/94 below the bridge and components of Elysian Field. The project included the full reconstruction of the bridge, a new retaining wall between Van Buren Street and Halsted Street and reconstruction of Van Buren Street pavement and drainage and major improvements to an existing City of Chicago combined sewer siphon beneath the expressway. In coordination with Greektown, major improvements are being made within Elysian Field on the southeast corner of Van Buren and Halsted Streets.
- **Eastbound (Inbound) I-290 Mainline**  
The reconstruction of the inbound mainline lanes of the Eisenhower from west of Racine Avenue to I-90/94 began in the fall of 2017. Traffic continues to be staged in order to allow construction progress. Construction of retaining walls, pavement and barrier walls along the south side of I-290 was completed. Traffic was shifted in the middle of June to open up the work area along the CTA. Drainage, pavement and barrier placement continues along the CTA. The overall project is anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2019.

- **Eastbound (Inbound) Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway)**  
 The construction of the inbound portion of Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway) rehabilitation and mainline bridge reconstruction began in the fall of 2017. Traffic was shifted onto the newly reconstructed and improved inner lanes in late October, 2018. The bridge carrying eastbound traffic over I-90/94 is complete, along with the viaduct east of Des Plaines Street. The exit ramp to Canal Street was closed with the above traffic shift and the parapet walls along the ramp are currently being completed. Traffic will be shifted into the final configuration, the Northbound to Eastbound ramp will be opened and the exit ramp to Canal Street will be reopened in early September.
- **Retaining Wall and Water Main/Sewer Improvements Near University of Illinois – Chicago (UIC)**  
 The project includes the relocation and rehabilitation of one 48” water main from the City of Chicago Cermak Pumping Station, additional water main and drainage improvements and the construction of a retaining wall extending south of Harrison along the west side of I-90/94. The completed wall along the University of Illinois – Chicago Student Recreation Facility has created more space for the current construction/relocation of exit ramps from I-90/94 and I-290 to Taylor Street and the West-South Ramp connecting the outbound Ida B. Wells Drive (Congress Parkway) to the southbound Dan Ryan. The proposed water main relocation and carbon fiber wrap rehabilitation of the remaining existing water main below the highway pavement has been completed. Carbon fiber wrap rehabilitation and associated work on the second water main below southbound I-90/94 was completed and the city restored service in July. Improvements in Des Plaines Street and Vernon Park Place continue, with carbon fiber rehabilitation of the water mains below northbound I-90/94. Restoration of the UIC tennis courts is ongoing.
- **Monroe Street Bridge over I-90/94**  
 The project includes the full reconstruction of the bridge, a new retaining wall south along the east side of I-90/94 reconstruction of Monroe Street pavement and drainage and miscellaneous ramp improvements. The project is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2019. The bridge and approach roadways were fully opened to traffic on July 26, 2019 with the adjacent exit ramps reopened soon after. Roadway lighting along the expressway below the bridge and various landscaping work is continuing. The project also includes the structural lining of a City of Chicago combined sewer siphon beneath WB I-290 that started in July. This work involves staging large equipment immediately south of the Peoria Street bridge and within the landscaped area. The lining will provide long term maintenance benefits to IDOT and the City of Chicago.
- **Eastbound I-290 to Northbound I-90/94 Ramp**  
 The project includes the reconstruction and relocation of the ramp connecting eastbound I-290 to northbound I-90/94. At project completion, the ramp will continue to carry one lane of traffic until future improvements along the northbound lanes allow two lanes along the critical ramp movement. In addition to the proposed bridge, five retaining walls will be constructed and large diameter sewers will be installed. The overall project is anticipated to be complete by late-2020. Traffic along I-90/94 was shifted in order to access the areas for the start of construction. The contractor continues constructing the foundations for the new west and east approaches to the ramp over I-90/94, along with the retained earth approaches. The new approaches are located away from the existing ramp, which allows traffic on the existing ramp to remain in use. Work on the new support piers for the bridge

was started within the area between northbound and southbound I-90/94. The contractor continues excavating along Van Buren Street for new large drainage sewers.

- **Major System Ramp Reconstruction**

During this large project, multiple interchange ramps will be reconstructed. The previously removed southbound I-90/94 to eastbound Ida B. Wells Drive ramp will be reconstructed. The westbound I-290/Ida B. Wells Drive to southbound I-90/94 will be removed and reconstructed. The westbound I-290/Ida B. Wells Drive to northbound I-90/94 will be removed and reconstructed. The exit ramp from southbound I-90/94 to Taylor Street will be removed and reconstructed with the exit relocated north of Van Buren Street. The exit ramp from eastbound I-290 to Taylor Street will also be reconstructed and reconfigured to shift the exit west of Halsted Street. The eastbound I-290 to southbound I-90/94 ramp will also be partially reconstructed and relocated. The ramp reconstruction and relocation work includes four ramp bridges and six retaining walls. The overall project is anticipated to be complete by late-2020. The contractor has completed the demolition of the existing, and previously closed, ramp bridge carrying westbound I-290/Ida B. Wells Drive to southbound I-90/94. After shifting the east-to-south ramp, the contractor continues demolishing the previously closed exit ramp carrying southbound traffic to Taylor Street. Progress continues on the drilled shafts and foundations for the new west-to-south ramp bridge and new south-to-east ramp bridge.

The Illinois Department of Transportation continues to be fully committed to complete the reconstruction of the Jane Byrne (Circle) interchange in an expeditious manner while enhancing the safety of motorists in the work zones and maintaining traffic flow within the City of Chicago Central Business District.

The project website is updated periodically so please visit us again.