

New interchange at I-90, Route 47 Opens

\$59 million project expands access along Tollway

By Richard Wronski, Chicago Tribune reporter
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A new interchange at the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway and Illinois Route 47 in Huntley has opened after 17 months of construction and at a cost of \$59 million.

Work included six new ramps that provide access to Route 47 from eastbound and westbound Interstate 90. The previous ramps, built in the 1970s, only allowed access for vehicles traveling to and from the east on I-90.

The project included widening 1 1/2 miles of Route 47.



The new configuration, which officially opened Friday, is one of three all-electronic interchanges on the Illinois Tollway system.

According to the Tollway, passenger car rates at the interchange will be 30 cents to and from the east and 45 cents to and from the west. Truck rates will range from 60 cents to \$1.50 to and from the east and 95 cents to \$2.50 to and from the west during daytime hours. Overnight discounts will be offered.

Tollway customers driving through an all-electronic interchange without an I-PASS transponder have a seven-day grace period to pay the toll online or by mail, the agency said.

Officials from the Tollway, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the village of Huntley, and Kane and McHenry counties dedicated the interchange.

Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur said the project "sets the stage for continued economic development and job growth along the Illinois Route 47 corridor and beyond."

Officials said the project resulted from a first-of-its-kind agreement among Huntley, the counties, the Tollway and IDOT to fund the project.

The Tollway financed half the cost, with IDOT contributing about 25 percent. The remainder came from Huntley, Kane and McHenry counties.

The first "environmentally friendly" interchange on the Tollway system, it features a geothermal water piping system to heat and cool nearby plaza buildings and permeable asphalt paving to allow water to seep through and reduce storm water runoff, officials said.