

Frequently asked questions about the transfer of State Highway 121 to the North Texas Tollway Authority

When did the State Highway (SH) 121 toll road transfer to the NTTA System and how long will this transfer last?

Aug. 31 is the date that the SH 121 toll road in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties officially joined the NTTA System for the next 50 years. SH 121 was transferred to the NTTA from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). It will be called the 121 Tollway until a new name is selected.

Why did the SH 121 transfer to the NTTA System?

In 2007, TxDOT awarded the NTTA the right to design, construct, operate and maintain SH 121 in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties. For that right, the NTTA provided a payment of \$3.2 billion to the region to be used on other mobility projects for North Texas.

How much of SH 121 was transferred to the NTTA System?

SH 121 from just west of Denton Tap Road to east of Medical Center Drive (located east of the U.S. Highway (U.S.) 75 interchange) was transferred to the NTTA. The total project length will be approximately 26 miles when complete. As of Sept. 1, 16.7 miles will be open to traffic.

What is the road's temporary new name and when does it get an official name?

The SH 121 will be called "the 121 Tollway" until the NTTA Board of Directors selects a new name. The NTTA will solicit input from the corridor cities, counties and the public. The service roads will retain the SH 121 designation.

What are the different segments of the 121 Tollway in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties and when will they open?

Segment one – 7.05 miles, from Denton Tap Road in Coppell to Old Denton Road in Carrollton; currently open to traffic.

Segment two – 9.02 miles, from Old Denton Road in Carrollton to Hillcrest Road on the Plano/Frisco line; opened to traffic on Sept. 1.

Segment three – 6.88 miles, from Hillcrest Road to Hardin Boulevard; under construction and will open by January 2010.

Segment four – 2.94 miles, from Hardin Boulevard to the east of Medical Center Drive including the 121 Tollway/U.S. 75 interchange; will open by January 2011.

Segment five– .33 miles, consists of adding direct-connect bridges to the 121 Tollway at the Dallas North Tollway; will be complete by January 2012.

What is going on with the unfinished portion of SH 121 between Denton County and Grapevine (out toward the D/FW airport)?

The NTTA’s project limits on the 121 Tollway in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties end at Business 121 west of Denton Tap Road in Denton County. The portion you are referring to belongs to TxDOT. You can call (214) 320-4480 for more information.

How do I pay tolls on the 121 Tollway?

The 121 Tollway features all-electronic toll collection. There are no tollbooths on the 121 Tollway. You're able to drive under the toll gantries – raised structures that span the main lanes or ramps – without having to slow down or worrying about stopping to deposit coins. You pay tolls through your TollTag account or through ZipCash, a “drive-now, pay-later” option.

If you do not have a TollTag or other electronic transponder a picture will be taken of your license plate and you will be sent a bill in the mail. The ZipCash rate is higher than the TollTag rate to reflect higher cost of collection. You may also use an existing TxTag (Texas Tollways transponder) or an EZ Tag (Harris County Toll Road Authority transponder). All transponder-equipped vehicles are charged the same TollTag rate due to statewide interoperability of the transponders.

Why is the NTTA moving to all-electronic toll collection?

All-electronic tolling reduces weaving and stop-and-go traffic associated with cash lanes at toll plazas, leading to improved fuel efficiency and better air quality. In addition, the uninterrupted lanes increase safety and mobility.

Did tolls increase on the 121 Tollway and, if so, why?

Yes, tolls increased on the portion of the road that was previously open to traffic (which is in Segment 1) from Denton Tap Road in Coppell to Old Denton Road in Carrollton. Toll rates on the Segment 1 main lanes that were already open to traffic adjusted on Sept. 1 in order to conform to the regional toll policy that the NTTA agreed to in the SH 121 project agreement.

What are the current toll rates for two-axle vehicles at every ramp and main lane gantry that is now open on the 121 Tollway in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties?

Rates for all vehicles traveling on the 121 Tollway or any other NTTA facility are posted on the NTTA Web site, www.ntta.org, and prominently displayed on rate signs on the roadway. The following table contains the current two-axle toll rates on the 121 Tollway:

CURRENT TWO-AXLE RATES

TollTag	ZipCash	Gantry location
\$0.48	\$0.70	Coit Road
\$0.21	\$0.40	Ohio Drive
\$0.21	\$0.40	Preston Road
\$0.21	\$0.40	Spring Creek
\$0.43	\$0.62	Plano Parkway
\$0.55	\$0.80	North Josey
\$0.66	\$0.96	North Standridge
\$1.18	\$1.71	Main Lane Gantry 2
\$0.63	\$0.91	South Josey
\$0.52	\$0.75	South Standridge
\$0.34	\$0.53	Old Denton/FM 2281
\$0.29	\$0.48	Parker Road/FM 544
\$0.21	\$0.40	Carrollton Parkway
\$0.21	\$0.40	MacArthur Boulevard
\$0.45	\$0.65	Main Lane Gantry 1

How much will it cost to travel the length of the 121 Tollway when Segment 2 is complete, considering the new rates?

A two-axle passenger vehicle with a TollTag entering the 121 Tollway at Business 121 in Denton County will pay \$2.11 to drive the main lanes all the way into Collin County and exit at Coit Road.

A two-axle vehicle using ZipCash entering the 121 Tollway at Business 121 in Denton County will pay \$3.06 to drive the main lanes all the way into Collin County and exit at Coit Road.

How much did tolls on Segment 1 of the 121 Tollway increase?

A two-axle vehicle with a TollTag will pay 79 cents to drive the length of segment one. They used to pay 75 cents. A ZipCash customer will pay \$1.18. They used to pay \$1.05.

The adjusted rates were applied to eight ramp gantries and a single main lane gantry on Segment 1, which stretches from Denton Tap Road to Old Denton Road in Denton County. The ramp gantry adjustment affects both electronic toll transponder and ZipCash transaction types. However, if your vehicle has an electronic toll transponder, you saw no rate change at the main lane gantry on Segment 1. (All transponder-equipped vehicles are charged the same TollTag rate due to statewide interoperability of the transponders.)

Toll rates are charged according to how many axles a vehicle has, and TollTag users will always pay less than drivers without a TollTag. Motorists in two-axle passenger cars or trucks using ZipCash pay between 2 cents and 12 cents more to travel on Segment 1, depending on which exit ramp they use. Passenger cars with a TollTag using the MacArthur Boulevard or Carrollton Parkway ramps pay 1 cent more.

The following table lists the Segment 1 adjusted toll rates for two-axle vehicles:

NEW TWO-AXLE RATES AS OF SEPT. 1

TollTag	ZipCash	Gantry location
\$0.34	\$0.53	Old Denton/FM 2281
\$0.29	\$0.48	Parker Road/FM 544
\$0.21	\$0.40	Carrollton Parkway
\$0.21	\$0.40	MacArthur Boulevard
\$0.45	\$0.65	Main Lane Gantry 1

The following table lists the Segment 1 old toll rates for two-axle vehicles:

OLD TWO-AXLE RATES

TollTag	ZipCash	Gantry location
\$0.30	\$0.42	Old Denton/FM 2281
\$0.25	\$0.35	Parker Road/FM 544
\$0.20	\$0.28	Carrollton
\$0.20	\$0.28	MacArthur
\$0.45	\$0.63	Main Lane Gantry 1

The following is an explanation of the toll rate increases on Segment 1:

Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza

NTTA toll road users experienced no toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.02 increase for ZipCash for two-axle passenger cars and trucks at Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced no toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.04 increase for ZipCash for three-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced no toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.06 increase for ZipCash for four-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced no toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.08 increase for ZipCash for five-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced no toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.10 increase for ZipCash for six or more axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Denton Tap Main Lane Plaza as of Sept. 1.

MacArthur Boulevard

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.01 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.12 increase for ZipCash for two-axle passenger cars and trucks at MacArthur Boulevard as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.02 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.24 increase for ZipCash for three-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at MacArthur Boulevard as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.03 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.36 increase for ZipCash for four-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at MacArthur Boulevard as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.04 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.48 increase for ZipCash for five-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at MacArthur Boulevard as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.05 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.60 increase for ZipCash for six or more axle vehicles and special permits at MacArthur Boulevard as of Sept. 1.

Carrollton Parkway

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.01 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.12 increase for ZipCash for two-axle passenger cars and trucks at Carrollton Parkway as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.02 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.24 increase for ZipCash for three-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Carrollton Parkway as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.03 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.36 increase for ZipCash for four-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Carrollton Parkway as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.04 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.48 increase for ZipCash for five-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Carrollton Parkway as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.05 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.60 increase for ZipCash for six or more axle vehicles and special permits at Carrollton Parkway as of Sept. 1.

Parker Road/FM 544

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.04 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.13 increase for ZipCash for two-axle passenger cars and trucks at Parker Road/FM 544 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.08 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.26 increase for ZipCash for three-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Parker Road/FM 544 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.12 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.39 increase for ZipCash for four-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Parker Road/FM 544 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.16 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.52 increase for ZipCash for five-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Parker Road/FM 544 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.20 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.65 increase for ZipCash for six or more axle vehicles and special permits at Parker Road/FM 544 as of Sept. 1.

Old Denton Road/FM 2281

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.04 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.11 increase for ZipCash for two-axle passenger cars and trucks at Old Denton Road/FM 2281 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.08 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.22 increase for ZipCash for three-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Old Denton Road/FM 2281 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.12 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.33 increase for ZipCash for four-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Old Denton Road/FM 2281 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.16 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.44 increase for ZipCash for five-axle vehicles and vehicle combinations at Old Denton Road/FM 2281 as of Sept. 1.

NTTA toll road users experienced a \$0.20 toll rate increase on their TollTag account and there was a \$0.55 increase for ZipCash for six or more axle vehicles and special permits at Old Denton Road/FM 2281 as of Sept. 1.