



NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

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All Six Main Lanes At Dallas North Tollway's Southern End To Fully Open To Traffic By Aug. 29

Plano, TX – For the first time since spring 2006, motorists driving on the south end of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) will be able to use all six main lanes of traffic by the morning of Aug. 29.

Contractors will work overnight starting Wednesday to make final preparations for the opening of the six main traffic lanes from just south of Lemmon Avenue to the Interstate Highway (IH) 35E exit ramp in Dallas County.

The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) will open the three southbound lanes at the DNT's south end by 5 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28. The three northbound lanes at the DNT's south end are scheduled to be open to traffic by 5 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 29.

The lanes at the DNT's southern gateway are opening on schedule, as originally promised by the NTTA at the start of the \$50 million renovation project.

"We hope our customers are just as thrilled as we are that all the main lanes south of Lemmon Avenue will be open by Labor Day," said Elizabeth Mow, NTTA Director of Project Delivery. "We'd like to thank all of our customers for their patience during construction."

The effort to renovate the DNT's 40-year-old southern gateway, the oldest section of the tollway, began in May 2006. Since then, NTTA contractors have completed several major endeavors, including:

- demolishing and removing the original main toll plaza at Wycliff Avenue;
- replacing the entire Cedar Springs bridge;
- replacing the pavement on the DNT from Lemmon Avenue south to IH 35E;
- removing the raised shoulder on the Wycliff and Maple Avenue bridges; and
- placing new striping on the DNT from Lemmon Avenue to LBJ Freeway.

The improvements enhance the capacity of the DNT, feature a contemporary toll gantry design, and ensure that the gateway serving downtown Dallas meets the highest safety and maintenance standards.

Construction will be ongoing until later this year to finish remaining portions of the massive project.

From Lemmon Avenue to Maple Avenue, crews are currently working to complete the median paving, the center median barrier and the permanent all-electronic toll collection (all-ETC) gantry columns. Temporary toll collection gantries will remain in place during construction of the new all-ETC gantries. Work on the new gantries began in late June and will continue into mid-October.

A gantry is a bridge structure that holds toll equipment and spans all traffic lanes. The electronic tolling equipment on a gantry collects information from electronic toll transponders or license plates. Tolls are deducted from the accounts of those with a TollTag, a TxDOT-issued TxTag, or a Harris County Toll Road Authority EZ Tag at a lower rate. Those without transponders are charged higher rates via ZipCash, the NTTA's drive-now, pay-later invoice method.

In addition, the center median barrier, a longstanding DNT feature that helps prevent cross-over accidents, is being replaced as part of the project. Once the new median barrier is in place, a final traffic switch will be needed.

The DNT south end renovation project also included improvements to Oak Lawn Avenue itself.

From Maple Avenue toward IH 35E, crews are working to construct the DNT's new southbound exit ramp to Oak Lawn Avenue. A northbound Oak Lawn Avenue entrance ramp also will be opened once work on Oak Lawn Avenue is completed.

The widening of Oak Lawn Avenue as it approaches the DNT from the east and west is still on track for a late-September to early October completion.

About the NTTA

The North Texas Tollway Authority, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, repair and operate turnpike projects in the north Texas region. The nine-member governing board is comprised of Chairman Paul N. Wageman; Vice Chairman Victor Vandergriff; and Directors Kenneth Barr, Gary Base, Bob Day, David Denison, Michael Nowels, Bob Shepard and Alan E. Sims.

The NTTA serves Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties and is responsible for the NTTA System, consisting of the Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, Addison Airport Toll Tunnel, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge and the Mountain Creek Lake Bridge. The NTTA is able to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds. NTTA toll projects are not a part of the state highway system and receive no direct tax funding. Tolls are collected to repay debt and to operate and maintain the roadways.

Visit the NTTA Web site at www.ntta.org or call 214-461-2000 for additional information about the NTTA. For customer service, please call 972-818-NTTA (6882).

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