



NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Speed Limit Set on 121 Tollway
*Study recommends 70 mph limit***

Plano, TX – At its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, Jan. 30, the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) Board of Directors approved a 70 mph speed limit on the 121 Tollway.

The board acted after receiving the results of a speed limit study conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on Segment 2 of the 121 Tollway, which opened to traffic Aug. 31 and stretches from Old Denton Road in Denton County to Hillcrest Road in Collin County.

Drivers are already accustomed to the 70 mph speed limit on the main lanes of the 121 Tollway as it's the same as the state-mandated default speed limit, known as the default "prima facie limit," already in effect. Signs informing motorists of the speed limit will be posted within the next several weeks.

The board's action means that the speed limit on the entire 121 Tollway corridor that is open to traffic is set at 70 mph.

The 121 Tollway officially transferred to the NTTA System from TxDOT on Sept. 1, 2008. The 70 mph speed limit was recommended following the completion of a TxDOT speed study in accordance with the 121 project agreement, which states TxDOT be responsible for the speed study while the NTTA be responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation the 121 Tollway for the next 50 years.

The speed study measured the speeds of free-flowing vehicles during weekday off-peak hours under favorable weather conditions over an eight-week period. The speed checks were conducted for a maximum of 125 vehicles at each location or for a two-hour period, whichever came first. Once the free-flowing speeds were collected at each check point, they were compiled to calculate the 85th percentile speed—the most characteristic representation of traffic speeds that are safe and reasonable.

Segment 1 of the 121 Tollway – from Denton Tap Road in Dallas and Denton counties to Old Denton Road in Denton County – was built by TxDOT and opened to traffic in summer 2006. TxDOT conducted its initial speed study on that stretch of the toll road in March 2007 and set the speed limit at 70 mph.

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The 121 Tollway has three additional segments to be constructed. Upon their completion, speed limits will be similarly determined and implemented for each of those segments.

Customers with further questions can contact the NTTA Customer Service Center at 972-818-NTTA (6882).

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, 121 Tollway, 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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