



**NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY**

5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano, Texas 75093

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Sherita Coffelt  
Assistant Public Information Officer  
214-224-2398 (O); 214-477-6999 (C)  
[scoffelt@ntta.org](mailto:scoffelt@ntta.org)

## **NTTA Breaks Ground on State Highway 121**

*As a result of collaboration, pieces of 'transportation puzzle' falling into place*

**Plano, Texas** – Officials from the North Texas Tollway (NTTA) joined regional dignitaries Friday morning to break ground on State Highway (SH) 121.

Using ceremonial shovels, NTTA representatives and regional dignitaries turned dirt on the roadway, signifying the official beginning of the NTTA's involvement in constructing the remaining segments of SH 121.

"We are thrilled to mark this important milestone," said NTTA Board Chairman Paul N. Wageman. "This landmark project will vastly improve mobility in the area and enhance the NTTA's financial system, providing us more capacity to develop and deliver additional transportation projects to the region."

In addition to standing on a roadway that will soon be open to traffic, ceremony attendees had the opportunity to preview a model of the new all-electronic toll collection gantry, which will make its debut on SH 121.

"The region, as well as the state, benefits from SH 121. Money from NTTA's \$3.2 billion upfront payment for SH 121 will be used by the Regional Transportation Council to finance other regional transportation projects for the region," Wageman said. "It is not everyday that we are given an opportunity to shape a new path in service to the public. For the NTTA, today is one of those days."

SH 121 stretches approximately 26 miles southeast to northwest. Terminating on the west near the Tarrant County line, it links the area near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to the fast growing cities in Collin, Dallas and Denton counties.

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Speakers at today's event included Chairman Wageman; Collin County Judge Keith Self; Collin County Commissioners Joe Jaynes and Phyllis Cole; Denton County Commissioner Ron Marchant; North Richland Hills Mayor Oscar Trevino, who serves as chairman of the Regional Transportation Council; and TxDOT's Assistant Executive Director for Innovative Project Development Phil Russell.

The NTTA will take full responsibility for operation, maintenance and construction of the remaining segments of SH 121, from Hillcrest Road to U.S. 75, in September of 2008. At this time, segments one and two of SH 121, from Denton Tap Road to Hillcrest Road, will have been completed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

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***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 William W. Meadows; and Directors Gary Base, Bob Day, David Denison, Michael Nowels, Bob Shepard, Alan E. Sims and Victor Vandergriff.

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](http://www.ntta.org) or call 214-461-2000 for additional information about the NTTA. For Customer Service, please call 972-818-NTTA (6882).