

Understanding All-Electronic Toll Collection: a Glossary of Terms

Addison Airport Toll Tunnel (AAT)

A two-lane tunnel crossing under the Addison Airport approximately 1,600 feet in length, with a total roadway length of 3,700 feet; opened in 1999. Converting to all-ETC by 2011.

All-Electronic Toll Collection (all-ETC)

A system through which all tolls are collected electronically. Parties responsible for toll payments are identified by a vehicle-mounted transponder, such as a TollTag, or a picture of a vehicle license plate. The toll is deducted from a prepaid account linked to the transponder, or an invoice is sent to the owner of the vehicle identified by the license plate information.

Cash lane

A lane that allows a customer to pay with cash or coins at a coin basket machine and/or to a toll booth operator. With the NTTA's all-ETC conversion, cash collection will be replaced with ZipCash payment system.

Customer Service Center (CSC)

The hub of the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) and ultimately all-ETC operations, where customers can open TollTag accounts, check account status and ask questions. The center processes all toll-related transactions, including invoicing and violation processing.
Location: 5910 West Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093

Dallas North Tollway (DNT)

The oldest toll road in the NTTA System, stretching 32 miles from IH 35E in Dallas to U.S. 380 in Collin County; opened in late 1968. Converting to all-ETC by 2011.

Express lane

A toll lane designated to accept only TollTag or other interoperable transponder payments. Vehicles are not required to stop, but instead pass under a toll gantry that records the transaction.

EZ TAG

Harris County Toll Road Authority's (HCTRA) electronic transponder, which can also be used on NTTA roads. NTTA's TollTag can also be used on HCTRA roads.

Gantry

Overhead structure that supports transponder readers, cameras and lights necessary for all-ETC. *Pictured >>>*



Interoperability

Customers' ability to travel on all Texas toll road systems using their NTTA Toll-Tag, a TxTag or an EZ TAG in accordance with the terms of agreements between NTTA, HCTRA and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge

A 1.7-mile toll bridge crossing Lewisville Lake in Denton County connecting the communities of Lake Dallas on the west bank and Little Elm on the east bank. It is part of a larger corridor that connects IH 35 E in Lake Dallas with the Dallas North Tollway in Frisco. The LLTB was designed and constructed as an all-electronic toll collection facility.

Main lanes

Primary lanes on NTTA roads. Does not include service roads.

Median barrier

A safety feature that divides the directions of travel on main lanes. Generally made of concrete, the safety feature prevents cars from crossing into oncoming traffic.

Mountain Creek Lake Bridge (MCLB)

A two-lane bridge in southwest Dallas County approximately 7,425 feet long; opened in 1979. Converting to all-ETC by 2011.

North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

A political subdivision of the State of Texas empowered to acquire, construct, maintain, repair and operate turnpike projects; to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of Turnpike Revenue Bonds; and to collect tolls to operate, maintain and pay debt service on those projects. One of the first organizations in the country to convert its entire roadway system to all-ETC.

Precast columns

Concrete columns constructed off-site and delivered at the appropriate time for immediate installation. Used to support steel gantries overhead, precast columns speed up gantry installation and reduce traffic disruption during construction.

President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT)

A 30.5-mile, six-lane, limited access expressway passing through or along Garland, Richardson, Plano, Dallas, Carrollton, Farmers Branch and Irving. Its first section in Dallas opened in 1998. Converting to all-ETC in July 2009.

Ramps

Lanes used to enter or exit from main lanes of a toll road.

Rates

Price to travel toll roads based on vehicle classification.

Sam Rayburn Tollway

Approximately 26-mile tollway stretching from SH121 in Coppell to U.S. 75 in McKinney. The tollway features six main lanes and all-electronic toll collection.

Temporary toll structure

A feature used in select construction methods that allows for all-ETC while permanent gantries are installed. Current plans call for temporary toll structures to be used on select Dallas North Tollway ramps south of IH 635.

TollTag

NTTA's electronic transponder used to collect tolls. Customers using TollTags receive up to a 45 percent discount. TollTags are interoperable on all toll roads in Texas and at Dallas/Fort Worth International and Dallas Love Field airports.

TollTag Cash Account

A TollTag account backed by cash deposits instead of a credit or debit card. The account must be opened with an initial \$40, from which tolls are deducted. Additional funds can be placed on the card in any amount thereafter. Deposits to the account must be made in person at the NTTA Customer Service Center. Cash-backed TollTags cannot be used at Dallas/Fort Worth International or Dallas Love Field airports for parking fees. However, customers with cash-backed TollTags do receive all other TollTag benefits, including saving up to 45 percent on tolls over cash or ZipCash customers.

TxTag

The electronic transponder used by TxDOT. It also can be used on NTTA roads. TxTag is not currently interoperable at the Dallas/Fort Worth International and Dallas Love Field airports.

ZipCash

Replaces cash collection with a system that allows customers to pay their tolls by mail after receiving an invoice. ZipCash was initially created to relieve construction congestion at the south end of the Dallas North Tollway.