

October 10, 2006

More of SH 45 North toll road to open early *SH 45 to RM 620 will open Nov. 1*

AUSTIN – More congestion relief is on the way for motorists in northwest Travis and Williamson counties. An additional two and a half miles of SH 45 North connecting to RM 620 will be open on November 1.

With this additional section, more than 27 miles of the Central Texas Turnpike Project will be open nearly a year ahead of schedule and under budget.

The early opening of the Central Texas Turnpike Project (CTTP) now includes the Loop 1 extension from Parmer Lane to SH 45 North, SH 45 North from RM 620 to SH 130 and SH 130 from US 79 to US 290.

In December, another segment of SH 130 (I-35 to US 79) will open, bringing Central Texas more than 40 miles of new roadways in less than four years. The remaining segments of SH 130 (US 290 to US 183 in southeast Austin) will open by Dec. 2007.

Once the CTTP opens on Nov. 1, motorists will be able to take advantage of promotional toll rates as incentives to try out the toll road. For the first two months, tolls will be waived for all customers. In January, cash customers will begin to pay a toll while TxTag customers will continue to have their tolls waived. In February, TxTag customers will pay a half-price toll. Beginning in March, TxTag customers will pay the regular toll, which is a 10 percent discount off the cash rate.

TxTag accounts can now be set up by visiting the customer service center located at 12719 Burnet Rd. The customer service center will be open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TxDOT is also enrolling TxTag customers via the internet (www.txtag.org) or by telephone at 1-888-GoTxTag (1-888-468-9824).

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A TxTag account will give motorists easy access to Austin area toll roads as well as others throughout Texas. It allows drivers to use the express lanes and pay their tolls electronically from a prepaid account. With TxTag, paying tolls will be fast, simple and convenient, without a motorist having to stop at a toll booth or look for coins.

The TxTag sticker is a thin, electronic device that goes on the inside of the windshield behind the rearview mirror. It is slightly smaller than a vehicle registration or inspection sticker. It contains a microchip that sends a signal to equipment located above the toll lanes.

To use TxTag, all motorists need to do is install it correctly and keep enough money in their TxTag account to pay the tolls.

An initial payment of \$20 is needed to set up an account, which goes to pay the tolls. For a limited time, the TxTag sticker will be free.