

September 18, 2006

Austin toll roads will open November 1 *TxTag customer service center now open*

AUSTIN – In just a few weeks, motorists can enjoy an easier, faster, shorter commute in north Austin and Round Rock instead of their daily crawl through congestion. On Nov. 1, approximately 25 miles of the region’s first toll roads will open nearly a year ahead of schedule, the Texas Department of Transportation announced today.

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

“For decades, area motorists have been asking for congestion relief and help will arrive on November 1 – ahead of schedule and under budget,” said Phil Russell, director of TxDOT’s turnpike division. “This is one of best examples of what toll financing can bring – improved mobility sooner rather than later.”

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.

In addition to a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 1, an early opening celebration is scheduled for Oct. 22. Plans include a competitive run, cycling tour as well as other family activities.

Once the CTTP opens on Nov. 1, TxDOT will offer motorists discounted 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.

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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).

Already, more than 3,200 TxTag accounts have been set up in the Austin area.

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.

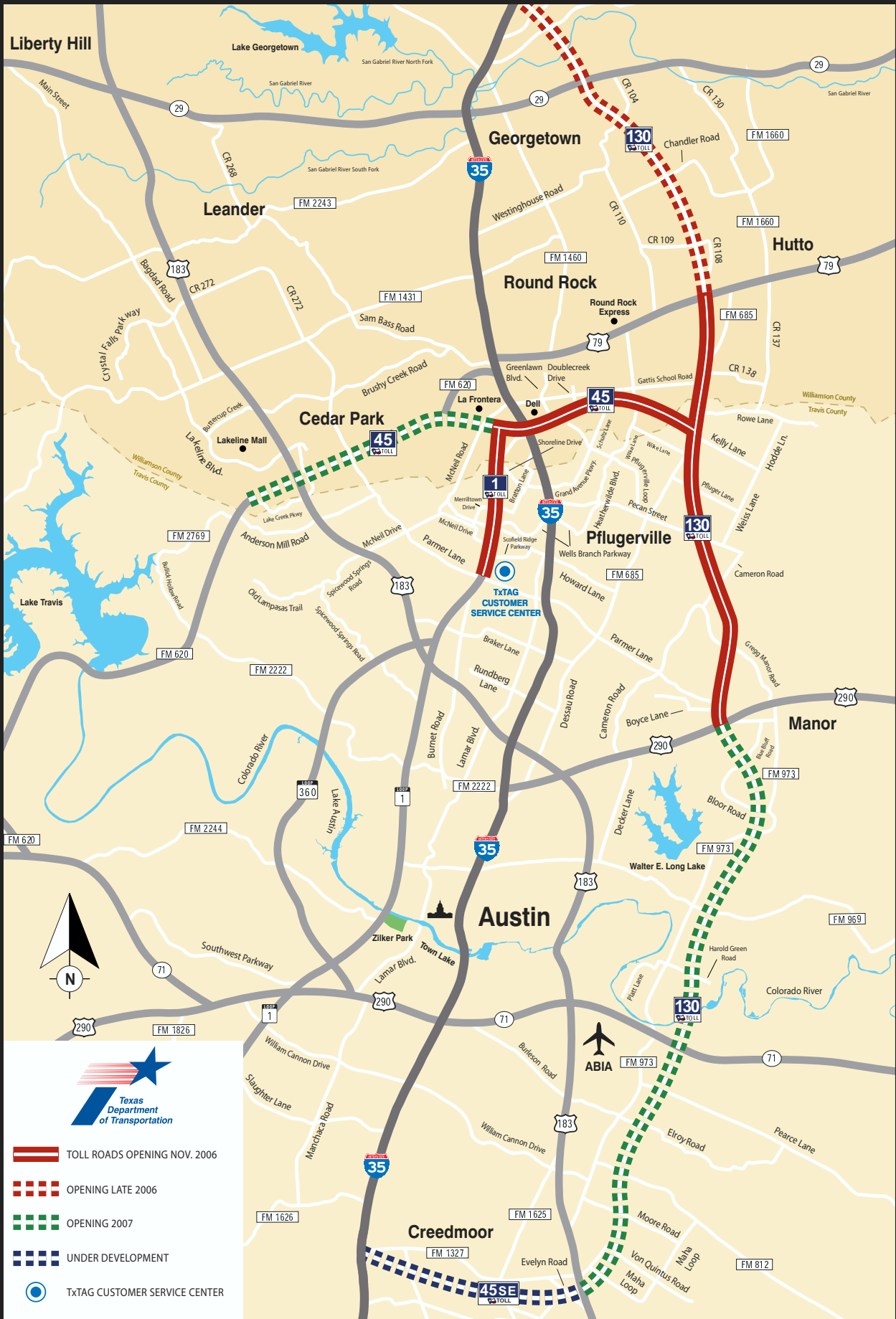
To use TxTag, all motorists need to do is install it correctly and keep enough money in their TxTag account to pay the tolls.

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.

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For more information contact Gabriela Garcia, Public Information Officer, TxDOT at 512-475-2134.

CENTRAL TEXAS TURNPIKE PROJECT



Texas Department of Transportation

- TOLL ROADS OPENING NOV. 2006
- OPENING LATE 2006
- OPENING 2007
- UNDER DEVELOPMENT
- TXTAG CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER