

HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA) PROJECTS AND PLANS

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1. Introduction

HCTRA opened the first tollway in 1988 and has been expanding the system ever since. Users began paying tolls with cash, tokens were introduced, and more recently electronic tags. HCTRA currently has approximately 1.4 million EZ Tag accounts with over 3 million tags on vehicles. The tollway system is about 129 centerline miles, and provides mobility options throughout the Houston-Harris County region.

2. Recent Improvements

The June of 2016 CIP submitted to court accounts for approximately \$2.1 billion of system improvements. Expansion in the number of lanes of the toll system is responsible for the bulk of the CIP. HCTRA's plan includes the continuation of the widening the Sam Houston Tollway to eight lanes from IH 45 to IH 10, including a new crossing of the Houston Ship Channel. Construction of Phase II of the Tomball Tollway began March 1 and HCTRA has coordinated the opening with the opening of the Montgomery County section. The Hardy Toll Road widening will be finished this month, completing the expansion to 6-lanes north of FM 1960. The Hardy Toll Road connection into downtown has moved into the next phase with the beginning of the Collingsworth overpass construction, one of three grade separations of City streets and the railroad. In addition, several years of work to transition our toll system software to the latest version will occur this summer. HCTRA is in discussion with TxDOT to provide interchanges at the Tomball Tollway and Grand Parkway, Sam Houston Tollway and SH 225, as well as the Hardy Toll Road and Sam Houston Parkway.

3. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

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