

HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA) PROJECTS AND PLANS

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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 1.7 million EZ Tag accounts with over 3 million tags on vehicles. The tollway system is about 128 centerline miles, and provides mobility options throughout the Houston-Harris County region.

Recent Improvements

HCTRA continues construction of several projects to improve mobility in our region. Phase II of the Tomball Tollway continues moving towards completion in December 2019. Widening of the Sam Houston Tollway continues from SH 288 to IH 10 on the south and east side, including the Ship Channel Bridge project. The required grade separations for the Hardy Downtown connector continue with construction of the Lorraine underpass starting recently. To assist with cash options, HCTRA has partnered with a third-party vendor (BancPass) to begin selling cash-reloadable electronic tags.

HCTRA has also rolled out an app that provides more flexibility for infrequent users.

Capital Improvement Projects

The 2019 CIP submitted to court in June of 2018 accounts for approximately \$2.7 billion of system improvements. 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. The Hardy Toll Road connection into downtown continues to move forward with the completion of the Collingsworth overpass and construction beginning for the Lorraine underpass. The last grade separation at Quitman and the tollway are scheduled to begin construction in 2020. HCTRA has begun design of 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. Discussions with TxDOT have occurred to allow these mobility improvements happen. HCTRA is in final development of a 90,000 SF Customer Service facility to centralize operations of this department.