

## **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, which allows use on most toll roads, in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. HCTRA currently has approximately 2.6 million EZ Tag accounts with over 3.6 million tags on vehicles. The tollway system is about 130 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 opened in December of 2019, connecting to the tollway in Montgomery County. Currently the interchange at Grand Parkway and the Tomball Tollway is under construction, which will lead to improved mobility in this area. Four direct connectors at this location are set to be completed by early fall of this year. In addition, the widening of the Sam Houston Tollway to eight lanes continues from IH 45 south to IH 10 east on the east side, including the Ship Channel Bridge project. The design of the interchange at the Sam Houston Tollway and SH 225 is underway as part of system improvements associated with the widening. The required grade separations for the Hardy Downtown connector continue with construction of the Lorraine underpass near completion. The current CIP accounts for approximately \$2.7 billion of system improvements.