

Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) Projects and Plans

Ram Mothe

Assistant Director, Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA)
7701 Wilshire Place Drive
Houston, Texas 77040

Introduction

HCTRA opened the first tollway in 1988 and has been evolving ever since. The current tollway system is about 130 centerline miles and provides mobility options throughout the Houston-Harris County region. HCTRA's mission is to responsibly operate and maintain a safe, reliable, sustainable, and evolving mobility system that meets the diverse connectivity needs of all of Harris County residents.

Recent Improvements

HCTRA is continuing the design and construction of projects that will deliver mobility solutions that create value for drivers in our region. There are several Heavy Maintenance packages set to advertise this year. These packages will include drainage improvements, bridge maintenance and roadway improvement projects, etc. The Sam Houston Tollway Ship Channel Bridge project continues to show progress on the Northbound bridge construction. Additionally, the design of the interchange at the Sam Houston Tollway and SH 225 is underway as part of system improvements associated with the widening that was completed in that area. The Barrier Free HCTRA program is progressing forward with modifications to the existing Toll Plaza gantries which will allow for a smoother drive by removing access to the old cash collecting lanes. Construction of next phases of the program, which includes roadway alignment improvements, demolition of the existing gantries, and signing and pavement marking improvements will also begin later this year. Additionally, the reimagining of the Hardy Downtown Connector is a project that will combine regional traffic needs with local community needs in a way that fulfills HCTRA's commitment to building more equitable infrastructure. HCTRA continues to engage the community and is gathering input that will be used to determine and guide the remaining elements of the project. These are just a few of the Major Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that HCTRA is working on. The current CIP accounts for approximately \$3.8 billion of system improvements.