

The Case for TEXpress Lanes

Transportation Funding Challenges

The Dallas-Fort Worth area has over seven million people living in the 16-county region and continues to add more than one million new residents per decade. Although there have been recent increases, current transportation revenue for new transportation programs and improvements to existing infrastructure is not keeping pace with the need to maintain existing facilities and provide capacity improvements for the growing population.

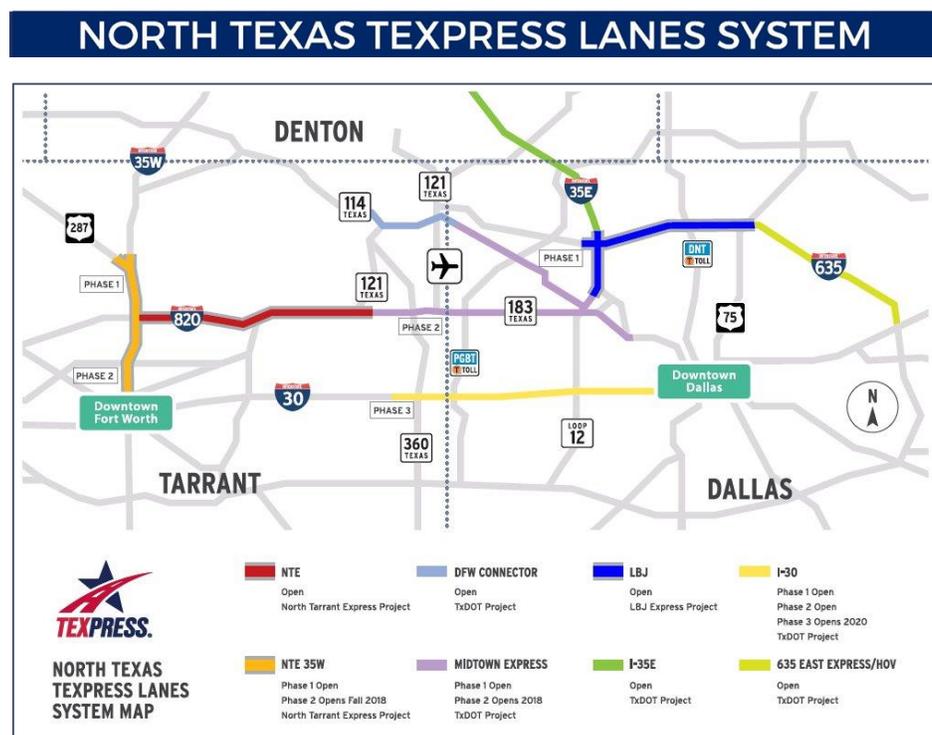
Roadway projects are funded through federal and state taxes, vehicle registration fees, local general funds, and state, local and toll bond programs. State and Federal gas taxes have not increased since 1991 and 1993, respectively, and have lost much of their purchasing power due to more fuel efficient vehicles and increased construction costs. Even with recently approved transportation funding measures, the region only has enough funding to complete a portion of the projects needed to reduce congestion. Traditional transportation funding methods cannot sufficiently fund our roadways anymore and alternative methods have been explored and must be maintained into the future.

Exploring Funding Alternatives

North Texas transportation leaders have worked collaboratively over the last decade to build transportation projects to keep up with the growth and fuel economic development and prosperity in our region. The Texas Department of Transportation, the North Texas Tollway Authority and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, through the Regional Transportation Council, work collaboratively to improve the transportation system and provide multiple transportation options to help North Texans reach their destinations. TEXpress Lanes are one way of expediting projects that would have otherwise had to wait years until the money was available from gas taxes and other traditional means.

TEXpress Lanes provide drivers a choice to pay a toll for a reliable trip with a predictable travel experience to lower the stress of commuting. The rebuilt corridors include frontage roads, bypass lanes, non-tolled lanes and tolled lanes with operations and maintenance costs paid by the private sector in many corridors, reducing reliance on gas tax funding.

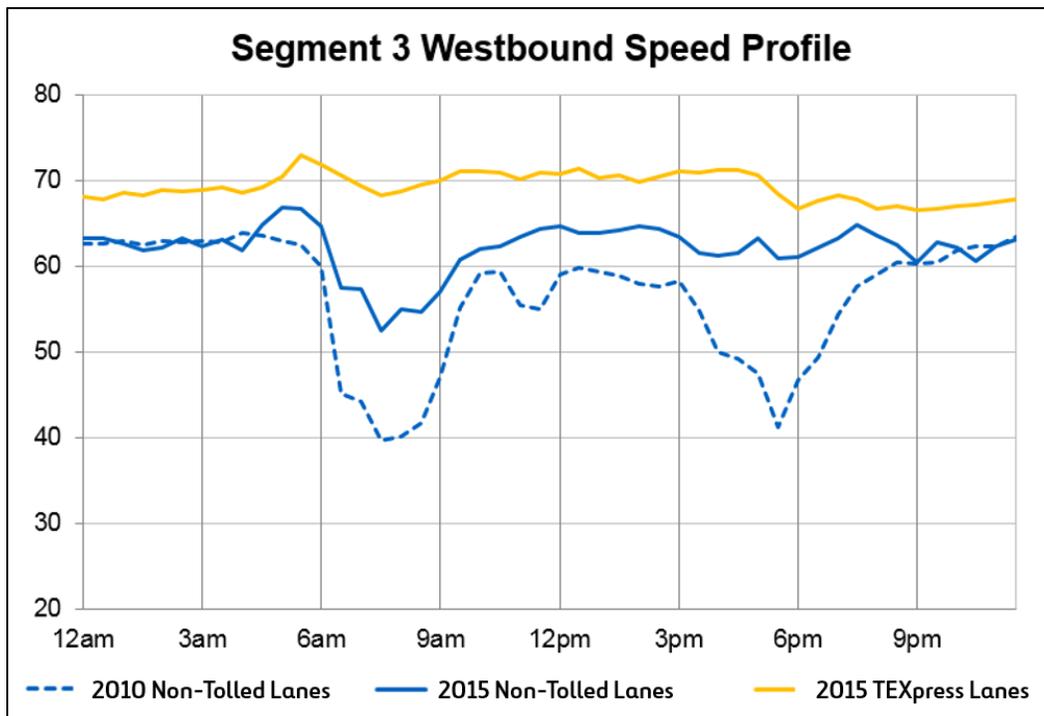
The TEXpress Lanes system is operating in several corridors across the DFW area, as seen in the adjacent map.



TEXpress Lanes and Toll Road Comparison

TEXpress Lanes and toll roads operate differently. Toll roads charge standard, non-fluctuating toll fees, unlike TEXpress Lanes. TEXpress Lanes add capacity alongside non-tolled lanes and use a pricing model with rates that fluctuate depending on the flow of traffic. Prices on the TEXpress Lanes increase as traffic in the lanes increases. When traffic is steady in the TEXpress Lanes, the rate will decrease.

As TEXpress Lanes attract more users, traffic speeds have been shown to increase on non-tolled lanes with less congestion. And TEXpress Lanes are only added to the most congested corridors in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.



TEXpress Lanes allow for expanded capacity without reducing efficiency.

- *With TEXpress Lanes, average speeds increased by 10-15 percent in the LBJ Corridor.*
- *Congestion time on the non-tolled lanes was reduced by 60 percent.*

Choosing Reliability

Drivers can choose to pay a toll for a reliable trip with a predictable travel experience. They can save time getting to their destination with reliable speeds, or they can drive at no cost in the adjacent, non-tolled lanes. Motorists have a choice, based on their own needs, each time they are on a roadway with TEXpress Lanes. When a motorist does choose TEXpress Lanes, commutes do not have to be expensive. TollTag, TxTag or EZ Tag customers and carpoolers get the lowest toll rates.

Economic Development

Finally, along with reducing congestion, TEXpress Lanes encourage economic development in the region. The Dallas-Fort Worth Area is consistently among the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation, with much of the development occurring along tolled corridors. These corridors attract major corporations and new residents, leading to increased property values and additional tax revenues for local governments and school districts. As more growth and development occurs, the need for reliable transportation increases, making TEXpress Lanes a needed choice for residents.