



Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority

SUMMER
2004

Drive Fort Bend's First Toll Road

Scheduled to Open August 30th

The Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road is in its completion phase and is set to open on August 30, just in time for traveling motorists who will be headed out of town for the Labor Day holiday!

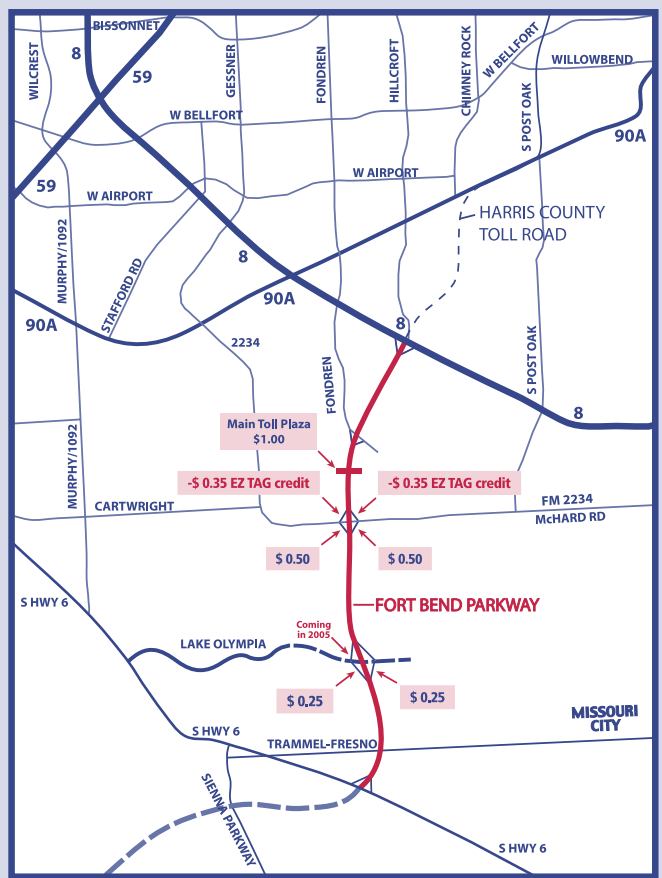
The new 6.2-mile toll road will provide Fort Bend County with a new, more efficient commuter option that connects State Highway 6 to Beltway 8. Harris County is currently constructing an extension of the toll road to Highway 90.

The Parkway project was launched as a new transportation option for residents traveling to and from eastern Fort Bend County. The new toll road will feature two lanes in each direction with major interchanges at Highway 6, and FM 2234 (McHard Rd) initially, and an interchange at Lake Olympia Parkway which should be complete a few months after the toll road opens. The main toll plaza will be located north of FM 2234. Upon opening, entrances and exits for the toll road will be located at Beltway 8, FM 2234, Highway 6 and Fondren Road.

The cost to drive the entire length of the Parkway will initially be set at a \$1, with varying rates depending on point of entrance or exit.

The Fort Bend Parkway will also provide Fort Bend residents and visiting motorists the opportunity to continue using their EZ TAGs employed by the Harris County Toll Road Authority. The EZ TAG system is part of the larger TX TAG electronic transit system and allows for usage on most toll roads in Texas.

Get Your EZ TAG Now!
Go to
www.eztagstore.com



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Parkway Questions? We've got Answers.

GENERAL

Q: Where is the Fort Bend Parkway?

A: The Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road is a north/south corridor connecting State Highway 6 to Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Toll Road) in eastern Fort Bend County. Harris County is currently working on a toll road extension that will connect the Fort Bend Parkway at Beltway 8 to Highway 90.

Q: When will the Fort Bend Parkway be opening?

A: The Parkway is scheduled to open for motorists on August 30, 2004.

Q: How do I get on the Fort Bend Parkway?

A: The toll road has two lanes in each direction with interchanges at Highway 6, FM 2234 and Beltway 8 and a partial intersection at Fondren. The main toll plaza will be located north of FM 2234 (McHard Rd.) with ramp tollbooths at FM 2234 (McHard Rd.). An entrance and exit ramp will be constructed for the Lake Olympia Parkway interchange which should be complete a few months after the toll road opens.

Entrances:

- Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Toll road)
- FM 2234
- Fondren-southbound
- Lake Olympia Parkway (available upon completion of Missouri City's extension of Lake Olympia Parkway to the toll road).
- S.H. 6

Exits:

- S.H. 6
- Lake Olympia Parkway (available upon completion of Missouri City's extension of Lake Olympia Parkway to the toll road).
- FM 2234
- Fondren-northbound
- Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Toll road)

Q: How do I access Beltway 8 from the Fort Bend Parkway?

A: Initially, the toll road will terminate at the end of the Parkway at the existing interchange to Beltway 8.

Q: Are there any plans to extend the Parkway any further north/south?

A: The Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) is constructing an overpass over Beltway 8 that will connect the Parkway to US 90A or South Main in the vicinity of Post Oak. The project will be completed early next year. HCTRA is also working to eventually extend the route to Loop 610. Also, once the Parkway is open and usage can be evaluated, the FBCTRA will be able to consider the potential of extending the toll road south (of Hwy 6).

Q: How far is Beltway 8 from the main toll plaza?

A: The distance between Beltway 8 and the main toll plaza is approximately 2.5 miles.

Q: How long is the Fort Bend Parkway?

A: The toll road is approximately 6.2 miles.

Q: Will the toll plazas have attendants?

A: The toll plazas on the Parkway will be unattended. Patrons who do not have an EZ TAG will have two options: they will need to have exact change ready or if they do not have exact change, they will have the opportunity to use a change machine prior to reaching the toll collection basket.

Q: Who will be responsible for patrolling the Parkway?

A: A combination of law enforcement officers and video surveillance will be utilized for toll enforcement, as well as, for all general traffic and law enforcement.

Q: What will the speed limit be for the Parkway?

A: The speed limit has been set at 65 mph.

COST

Q: How much is it to drive the Fort Bend Parkway?

A: The cost will initially be set at a \$1. Rates will vary depending upon point of entry or exit.

EZ TAG

Q: Will my EZ TAG work on the Parkway?

A: Yes. If you have an existing EZ TAG you're ready to ride on the Parkway.

Q: I don't have an EZ TAG. How does the program work?

A: The EZ TAG program allows participating motorists to prepay their tolls using a major credit card or direct debit payment option. A minimum prepayment amount of \$40 and a deposit of \$15 per EZ TAG is required for the first 3 tags issued on a single account. Visit www.eztagstore.com or call (281) 875-EASY for terms and conditions. The EZ TAG itself is a small credit-card sized device that adheres to the inside of the windshield. As EZ TAG patrons use the system, tolls are electronically deducted from their accounts. When an EZ TAG account reaches the minimum balance level, it automatically recharges (or debits) the customer's credit card or bank account to bring it back to the original deposit amount. The EZ TAG is completely compatible with the Harris County Toll Road System.

The EZ TAG is also part of the TX TAG system that allows patrons to use participating toll roads across the state. Participating agencies can be identified by the square red, white and blue TX TAG emblem on the toll plaza lane identification signs.

Q: If I don't have one, where/how do I get an EZ-TAG?

A: Applications are available on the Harris County Toll Road Authority Website, www.eztagstore.com. You can also have an application mailed to you, by calling (281) 875-EASY. Fill it out completely, and return it to the EZ TAG store address on the form. Your TAG will be mailed to you complete with mounting instructions. You can also stop by any of the EZ TAG Stores to apply and pick up your TAG the same day. The EZ TAG Stores are located at:

Southwest Area (closest store to Fort Bend)
1855 S. Sam Houston Tollway
Houston, TX 77047
EZ TAG Phone Number: (281) 875-3279
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Northside Area
330 Meadowfern Drive
Houston, TX 77067
EZ TAG Phone Number: (281) 875-3279
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Town & Country Area
906 W. Sam Houston Pkwy N.
Houston, TX 77024
EZ TAG Phone Number: (281) 875-3279
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday

Dairy Ashford
4012 S. Dairy Ashford
Houston, TX 77082
EZ TAG Phone Number: (281) 875-3279
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Q: Will there be an EZ TAG store in Fort Bend County?

A: There will not be an EZ TAG store in the Fort Bend area initially. However, if needed, we are not ruling out adding one in the future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Q: Where do I go to get a map and the latest information?

A: Go to www.fbctra.com.

Q: How do I contact someone at the Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority?

A: You can contact the Toll Road Authority at (281) 242-9740 or by email at info@fbctra.com.

Beautifying the Parkway

Plans are underway to beautify the 6.2-mile stretch of road on the new Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road. The Parkway Beautification Project is being designed to positively impact surrounding communities and the environment by landscaping the thoroughfare with localized plantings. Unique to this project will be an abundance of flowering plants and native trees that will help preserve and celebrate Fort Bend's local natural heritage.

In this attractive planting scheme plan, the outer edge of the Parkway will have a 15 to 20 foot buffer of heavily planted trees, predominantly live oak, willows and sycamores. Bordering the native foliage will be layers of dazzling brightly colored wildflowers. Among the more popular native trees that will line the Parkway will be the Texas Red Bud, which will begin to show their splendor in early spring of 2005.

Along with preserving the natural beauty of the area, the Parkway will also be sensitive to the noise that may be associated with having a toll road. Sound walls 6-8 feet high will be implemented along the predominantly residential north end of the toll road.

Partnering with the FBCTRA on this beautification project is Trees for Houston, a non-profit organization dedicated to street tree-planting. A non-profit endowment fund has been set up that will help initiate the beautification plans. Dubbed the Fort Bend Parkway Beautification Project, this project is raising funds through community and business contributions to plant trees along the Parkway. The cost-per 15 gallon tree is \$150; however, all contributions are welcome and appreciated. Contributors will receive a certificate of donation in exchange for their gifts. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Donations can be mailed to:

Fort Bend Parkway Beautification Project
C/o Trees for Houston
P.O. Box 13096
Houston, TX 77219-3096

Fort Bend Westpark Tollway Under Construction

During the last five months, the 6.5 mile Westpark Tollway being built along FM 1093 from FM 1464 to SH 99 has made considerable progress. In the mid-section of the Tollway, east of Peek Road and west of Westmoor Drive, clearing operations are underway and being prepared for concrete paving. In addition, work has begun on the underground storm sewer drainage system.

The Westpark Tollway will extend the Harris County Toll Road section that continues from the Loop 610 to the Fort Bend county line. There will also be an elevated connector from southbound SH 99 to eastbound Westpark Tollway. The Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority is working in cooperation with the Harris County Toll Road Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation to develop and complete the projects. The Fort Bend portion of the Westpark Tollway, will provide commuters with four Tollway lanes and four frontage road lanes, making the entire corridor an eight-lane thoroughfare. The FBCTRA expects to open the Tollway to riders by Fall 2005.

Parkway Grand Opening Celebration!

The Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority invites you to join in the celebration of the Parkway Toll Road Grand Opening. Be the first to check out Fort Bend's first toll road before it opens **Monday, August 30.**

When: Friday, August 27, 2004

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: The Main Toll Plaza just north of McHard Road (FM 2234)

The **Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority** was created by the **Fort Bend County Commissioners Court** as a local government corporation pursuant to the Texas Transportation Code, to aid, assist and act on behalf of the County in the performance of its essential governmental purposes including among other things toll road projects.

Fort Bend County Commissioners Court:

The Honorable Robert Hebert - County Judge
Commissioner Tom D. Stavinoha - Precinct 1
Commissioner Grady Prestage - Precinct 2
Commissioner Andy Meyers - Precinct 3
Commissioner James Patterson - Precinct 4

Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority:

Norm Mason - Chairman
Dr. Jim Condrey - Vice Chairman
Greg Ordeneaux - Treasurer
Bobbie Tallas - Secretary
Charles Rencher - Director

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