



## [Nicholas Sakelaris](#)

Staff Writer- Dallas Business Journal

[Email](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

The DFW Connector opened the TEXpress Lanes in Grapevine Tuesday at zero cost to drivers, a move highway officials say will help manage traffic during a busy sports weekend.

The 4-mile segment will start collecting tolls later this spring after the equipment is completed, said [Lisa Walz](#), a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Transportation.

Texas Motor Speedway is hosting the Duck Commander 500 in north Fort Worth this weekend and AT&T Stadium in Arlington will host the NCAA Final Four, both of which will draw thousands of tourists to North Texas.

"We believe this is a perfect time to open this new system for congestion management," [James Bass](#), interim executive director of TxDOT, said. "This innovative corridor will provide a choice for commuters driving through this vital east/west route as well as reduce congestion and improve safety."

The TEXpress Lanes, or managed toll lanes, were a key part of the \$1.1 billion DFW Connector project that completely rebuilt Highway 121/114, Interstate 635 and Highway 26 and all the interchanges, bridges and frontage roads in that corridor.

Once they start collecting tolls, the TEXpress Lanes will cost \$1 during peak periods and 67 cents for non-peak travel times for vehicles with two axles. These are trial prices that will be in effect the first six months.

After that, the TEXpress Lanes will go to dynamic pricing under which the toll can vary widely depending on traffic levels.

More than [90 miles of TEXpress Lanes, or Lexus Lanes as critics call them](#), are being built throughout North Texas to give drivers a choice, if they're willing to pay for it. The [lanes come with a 50 mph guarantee](#). The first lanes 3.2-mile segment [opened on the LBJ Express project \(Interstate 635\) in Dallas in December.](#)

Nicholas covers the energy and banking beats for the Dallas Business Journal. [Subscribe the Energy Inc. newsletter](#)