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State, regional officials respond to complaints about tolling 75 HOV lanes



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It will soon be more difficult to find a North Texas thoroughfare that doesn't feature some sort of tolling. Here is a look at existing and planned toll roads and highways with toll lanes.

— Existing toll roads — Planned toll roads
— Planned toll lanes — Planned partial toll lanes



SOURCES: North Texas Tollway Authority; Texas Department of Transportation; Regional Transportation Council
Staff Graphic

The Texas Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation Council have answered complaints from Collin County officials about plans to turn Central Expressway's carpool lanes into managed toll lanes. The gist of the responses:

- The plans are a way to get more drivers in the underutilized carpool lanes
- This is part of a regional plan for more tolled lanes on several area highways
- With state and federal officials not raising gas tax rates, tolls are a necessary evil
- Carpoolers will still be able to use the lanes for free
- Turning the carpool lanes into free main lanes would require new shoulders, widening of the highway and a redo of several bridges and interchanges
- This was communicated and largely agreed to years ago, perhaps before many of you took office

RTC director Michael Morris told the officials that there will be public workshops about the plans. No dates and locations were given yet, but he said they'll be the perfect opportunity for folks to voice their opinions (which, of course, has already started to happen).

[RTC 75 Response to Collin](#)