

If you've got a name for HOV lanes, you could win a gas card Posted Wednesday, Sep. 26, 2012

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Many North Texas drivers probably have more than a few colorful names for those high-occupancy vehicle lanes - you know, those ribbons of seemingly empty space that frustrate motorists while the rest of the road is jammed to a halt.

Well, now they have a chance to actually give those HOV lanes a new name -- and possibly win \$2,500 worth of free gas.

The folks rebuilding Loop 820 and Texas 121/183 in Northeast Tarrant County -- a project known as North Tarrant Express -- as well as the LBJ Express project in north Dallas are putting together a naming contest.

The contest is being launched as officials with the North Central Texas Council of Governments initiate the complicated process of integrating the region's existing HOV lanes with the plethora of managed toll lanes that are under construction on projects such as North Tarrant Express.

The thinking is, the old HOV lanes and new managed toll lanes will work together a lot better if they're lumped into a single traffic system — with a new name.

"It helps us with the education process, letting people know how these express lanes, managed lanes or whatever you want to call them are supposed to work," said Robert Hinkle, spokesman for NTE Mobility Partners.

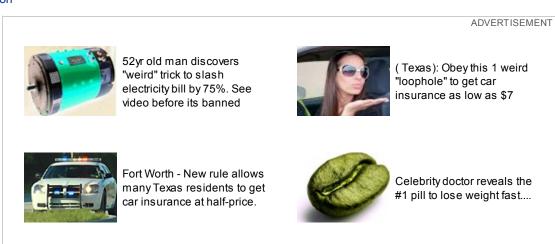
The contest will continue for about six weeks. The first leg of LBJ is expected to be completed by late 2013 and North Tarrant Express is scheduled to be complete by June 2015.

Winners will be chosen randomly. The grand prize is a \$2,500 gas card, and other prizes will be offered as well.

For more information, visit namethelanes.com.

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