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North Tarrant Express will open by October, managed toll lanes and all



[Nicholas Sakelaris](#)

Staff Writer- Dallas Business Journal

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

The North Tarrant Express will open in October with new free lanes, frontage roads and the largest continuous managed toll lane in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The \$2.5 billion, 13.3-mile project completely rebuilt Loop 820 and State Highway 183/121 (also known as Airport Freeway) from Interstate 35W in Fort Worth east to Industrial Boulevard in Euless. TEXpress, or managed toll lanes, will be in the center of the new highway. The tolls will vary based on traffic levels but drivers will get a guarantee that they'll be able to drive a minimum of 50 mph on those lanes.

The announcement came at a Texas Department of Transportation public meeting on TEXpress Lanes at the Euless Public Library.

The TEXpress Lanes will have limited access with only a handful of entrances and exits to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

Similar lanes opened earlier this year on the DFW Connector on State Highway 114 in Grapevine and on two sections of the LBJ Express, which includes Interstate 35E and the eastern portion of Interstate 635.

But that's just the beginning. By 2018, North Texas will have about 100 miles of these TEXpress Lanes, giving drivers an option to pay their way out of congestion. Critics have called them Lexus Lanes.

A lack of funding from Washington D.C. and Austin created a scenario where transportation planners had to become creative if they wanted to execute major highway projects, said [Dan Lamers](#), a senior project manager at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

That's what led them to find a contractor like Cintra who could design, build, maintain and operate the highway for decades. Cintra's parent company is based in Madrid. Though the project cost \$2.5 billion, only about \$573 million of that is public money. The rest was private dollars that will be repaid through toll revenue.

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

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