



## **Preparations underway for toll road opening next week**

Plans are in place to open nearly 27 miles of the Central Texas Turnpike Project nearly a year ahead of schedule and more than \$350 million under budget. These new toll roads will reduce congestion and make it easier for motorists to get around in Austin.

The implementation of the opening plan is set to begin early next week, weather permitting, giving motorists' use the toll roads for their morning commute on November 1.

The opening, which includes the Loop 1 extension (Parmer Lane to SH 45), SH 45 (Loop 1 to SH 130) and SH 130 (US 79 to US 290), requires moving concrete barriers, striping frontage roads and mainlanes, adjusting signal timing at adjacent intersections, pre-positioning message boards and opening adjacent frontage roads.

Beginning on Oct. 31, TxDOT will begin to remove barricades at the exit and entrance ramps. This process will begin at SH 130 and US 79 with crews moving south to remove barricades to the northbound lanes. The process then moves to the southbound lanes of SH 130, eastbound lanes of SH 45, northbound lanes of Loop 1, southbound lanes of Loop 1 and ending with the westbound lanes of SH 45. Direct connectors between SH 45 and I-35 will be the last ramps opened.

The removal of barricades along the toll road is expected to be completed by the end of the day on Oct. 31, weather permitting.

To view an animated sequence of how the CTTTP will be opened go to [www.centraltexasturnpike.org](http://www.centraltexasturnpike.org)

Due to schedule changes, the ramps at RM 620 and SH 45 are expected to be open by November 2, weather permitting.

While law enforcement and construction crews prepare for the opening, motorists are asked not to drive around the barricades at entrance and exit ramps.

As motorists drive the toll roads, they should remember a few rules of the road: slow down at exit and entrance ramps, drive the posted the speed limit, and observe work zone signs as crews may need to make minor adjustments on the toll road.

A map of the Central Texas Turnpike Project illustrating the sections opening in November and the tolled exit and entrance ramps is available at [www.txtag.org](http://www.txtag.org).

Until Jan. 5, the toll roads are free. Beginning Jan. 6, cash customers will begin paying tolls and TxTag customers will continue to drive for free. During the month of Feb., TxTag customers will pay half-price. Starting March 1, TxTag customers will receive the standard 10 percent discount.