

A Message from Secretary Lorenz



The Kansas Department of Transportation is pleased to partner with Overland Park on this groundbreaking approach to addressing congestion and safety concerns along the U.S. 69 Corridor. Express toll

lanes are one way for OP to generate funds for local cost contribution and help accelerate the Project schedule. Express toll lanes could be very helpful in this corridor because they allow drivers to choose if they want to pay

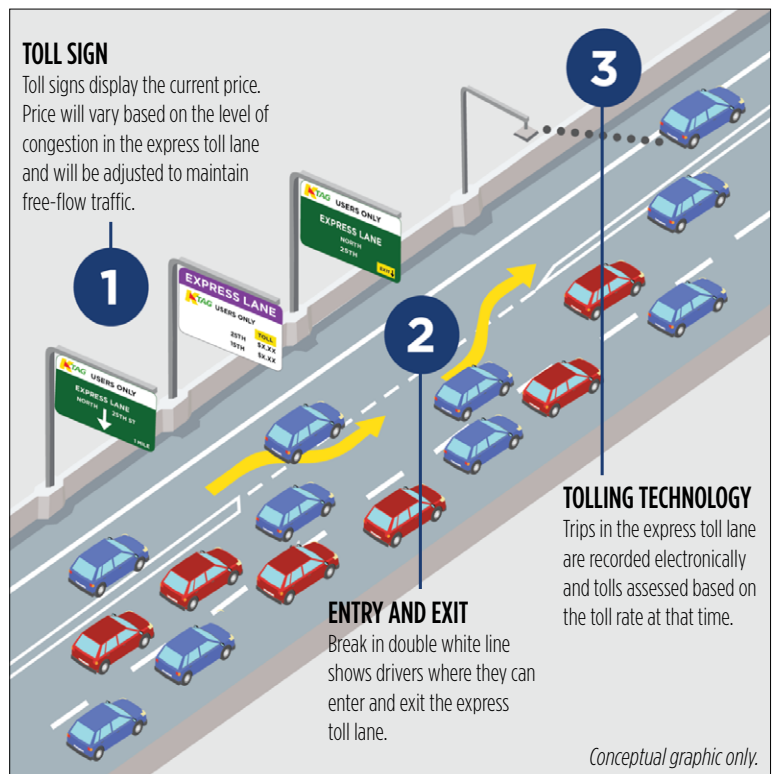
a toll to drive in the free-flowing express lane, which also helps reduce congestion in the “free lanes.” Just as importantly, express toll lanes help manage congestion in the long run. Because this is a new concept for Kansans, KDOT and OP are committed to a strong engagement process so the public can understand express toll lanes and comment on the pros and cons. As part of the U.S. 69 Project, significant engineering and toll analysis of cost and benefits will be completed, enabling everyone to make informed decisions.

Express Toll Lanes Manage Congestion

The U.S. 69 Study will determine if adding a north-bound and a south-bound express toll lane could offer a less-congested alternative. An express toll lane is available to any driver who chooses to pay a user fee (toll) in order to achieve a more reliable travel time. The other two existing lanes remain toll-free.

Previous U.S. 69 Studies suggested that express toll lanes are technically feasible, and that toll revenue collected could be used as the local contribution to help cover a portion of Project costs and build the Project sooner.

The express toll lane concept is used in major cities such as Dallas, Denver and Minneapolis. To reduce traffic congestion, the new lane is tolled, and the toll rate is adjusted based on corridor traffic. This keeps the toll lane flowing smoothly and also reduces congestion for drivers in the non-tolled general-purpose lanes.



How Express Toll Lanes Work

If U.S. 69 improvements proceed with express toll lanes, tolls would only be considered for new lanes. Drivers would not have to pay a toll to use existing, general-purpose lanes even after they are improved.

Express toll lanes give drivers the option to choose to pay tolls when they need more predictable travel times.

Express Toll Lanes as a Funding Option

This Project is looking at express toll lanes to see how they compare to other previously studied strategies to improve congestion, travel time reliability and community quality of life. Express toll lanes would enable drivers to choose if they want to pay a toll to drive in the free-flowing express lanes, which in turn helps reduce congestion in the toll-free general-purpose lanes. Express toll lanes generate revenue, so they also would provide a way for the City of Overland Park to generate its local contribution to U.S. 69 improvements and help accelerate the Project's construction schedule.

Local contributions are funds and other things of value that cities, counties and sometimes the private sector provide to help advance important infrastructure projects. For example, over the course of the past two decades, Overland Park has contributed about 20% of the total cost to advance transportation improvements on U.S. 69 and I-435. Recognizing the cost and benefit of transportation improvements, other Kansas communities are providing higher local contributions to projects that benefit their community.

Express toll lanes offer a way for the users of U.S. 69 to generate revenues that could fund Overland Park's local contribution. As the tolls are collected, that revenue would offset a portion of the Project's initial construction cost over time.

2019 Kansas Tolling Legislation Requirements



In 2019, the Kansas Legislative Session passed new tolling legislation that includes the following requirements:

- Existing lanes cannot be tolled
- Tolling can only be collected on new lanes
- Tolls collected on a roadway can only be used on that roadway
- KDOT cannot toll a roadway without community support
- Communities have to request that KDOT evaluate tolling further

Contacts:

To learn more about the Project and sign up for email updates, please visit www.69Express.org

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