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PROJECT OVERVIEW February 2023

69Express Overview

The 69Express Project will address growing safety, travel time reliability and congestion issues between 151st and 103rd Streets on U.S. 69 in suburban Overland Park, Kansas. U.S. 69, the state's busiest four-lane highway, experiences heavy congestion during rush hours and at other times. Crash rates in the corridor are 53% above the statewide average. Fifty-year-old pavement and bridges are overdue for replacement. Congestion is growing, with peak travel times expected to quadruple by 2050.

69Express will add two new lanes - one northbound and one southbound - to the existing four lanes of U.S. 69. Completion of the 167th Street interchange also is part of the project.

The new lanes, Kansas' first express lanes, will be constructed on the inside of the existing lanes to take advantage of the right-of-way KDOT already owns.

The express lanes will manage congestion through dynamically priced tolls. Dynamic pricing means toll rates change with traffic volumes to keep the toll lanes flowing smoothly while also improving traffic flow in the toll-free, general-purpose lanes. Overhead signs will communicate the current toll rate to drivers so they can choose for themselves whether they want to pay that price to drive in the free-flowing toll lane.

The existing lanes on U.S. 69 will remain untolled.

Eleven noise walls will be built along the corridor, as well. Each wall will be approximately 15 feet high. These walls will be constructed in late 2023 and 2024. They will begin at 151st Street and stand primarily along the residential areas of the corridor up to Indian Creek. Walls between 119th and I-35 were installed with previous projects.

Toll Rate Pricing

The cost to drive in the express lanes will depend on traffic levels at the time and on whether a user is driving the full, six-mile length of the corridor (151st Street to just north of 103rd Street) or just a portion of the corridor. For example, if someone drives the entire length northbound during the morning rush hour, that trip could cost \$1.50. If someone only drives a portion of the corridor, say from 151st Street to 119th Street, that partial-length trip could cost \$0.50.

During off-peak times — mid-day, nighttime and weekends — rates drop significantly because fewer drivers are using the highway. Rates fall to approximately \$0.30 for a partial









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trip and \$0.65 for a full-length trip. In the southbound direction during afternoon rush hour, rates increase again as traffic increases. Rates are slightly higher in the afternoon because there is more congestion during the afternoon than in the morning rush hour.

RATES SET DYNAMICALLY TO MANAGE CONGESTION 151ST STREET TO 103RD STREET

Partial corridor trip ———		
\$0.50	\$0.30	\$0.75
Full corridor trip		
\$1.50	\$0.65	\$1.75
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Morning Northbound	Mid-Day Nighttime Weekends	Afternoon Southbound

69Express Toll Collection

There will be no toll booths on U.S. 69. Tolls will be collected electronically using K-TAGs (and other compatible transponder devices) or license plates. Cameras will capture license plate images for vehicles using the express lanes. For a customer who does not have a K-TAG, the vehicle's registered owner will receive an invoice in the mail for the toll incurred by the vehicle.

K-TAG accounts will be the most cost-effective way to pay tolls on U.S. 69. A K-TAG is a small device (like a sticker) that adheres to the inside of the vehicle's windshield. For customers who already have K-TAG accounts, trips taken in the U.S. 69Express toll lanes will appear on their K-TAG monthly statements.

Customers who do not have K-TAGs may sign up at myktag.com. The windshield stickers are free and can be mailed directly to the user. Tolls accrued on a K-TAG will be charged to a customer's bank account or credit/debit card each month. Users also may choose a prepaid option, available at select Kansas retailers or online at www.BancPass.com.

Construction Timing

69Express construction began in January 2023 with utility work. Periodic lane closures and other traffic impacts will occur throughout the three years of construction. Some closures at key interchanges will last up to 90 days. See 69Express.org for up-to-date information. The express lanes are expected to open by the end of 2025.

69Express project partners are the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), and the City of Overland Park. 69Express is part of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE).









