

The Express Toll LanesSM Solution

Express Toll Lanes (ETLsSM) are an effective method of highway congestion relief. Two new ETLs are being added to I-95 in each direction north of Baltimore. These new lanes will offer "thru" motorists the option of paying a toll to drive in relatively free-flowing lanes or of staying in the existing I-95 lanes with no toll. With "thru" traffic utilizing the ETLs, drivers in the general-purpose lanes will see operational improvements; the ETLs Solution will benefit all drivers.

The I-95 ETLs project is being modeled on successful congestion management projects constructed along travel corridors in places like San Diego; Houston; Lee County, Florida; and Ontario, Canada. The results speak for themselves. A survey of San Diego residents shows that nearly 90% of people who use managed lanes enjoy an easier commute. And the benefit isn't limited to the managed lanes. Two-thirds of the people who use the original general-purpose travel lanes also see a marked improvement in their daily commute.



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Maryland
Transportation
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Relief is on the Way...
**I-95 Express
Toll LanesSM**



Artist's rendering of future Express Toll Lanes



Express Toll LanesSM Coming to I-95

In 2005, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) began construction to add two new Express Toll Lanes (ETLsSM) in each direction to 8 miles of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95) from the I-895 split to just north of White Marsh Boulevard (MD 43). A comprehensive study identified this section as the most congested stretch of I-95 north of Baltimore City. In addition to the four new ETLs, improvements are being made to the existing I-95 roadway, bridges and interchanges.

Drivers will have a choice

When construction is completed, the highway will consist of four general-purpose lanes and two "thru" ETLs in each direction. Drivers traveling from north of MD 43 through to I-895 will have the choice of paying a toll to use the new ETLs or continuing to drive in the non-tolled general purpose lanes. Access to the southbound ETLs will occur north of MD 43; access to the northbound ETLs will occur south of the I-95/I-895 split for both I-95 and I-895.

Travel time, accidents and delays should decrease

Safety and congestion relief are priorities for the MDTA. Several design features of the project will help improve roadway safety. All I-95 general-purpose lane entrances and exits are now made from the right. The ETLs will be barrier-separated from the general-purpose lanes. In addition, improved signage and reconfigured interchanges will help improve traffic flow. With vehicles spread out over two extra lanes in each direction, travel times, accidents and delays on this section of I-95 should decrease. Less congestion means vehicles will spend less time sitting in traffic with engines idling, decreasing air pollution from emissions.

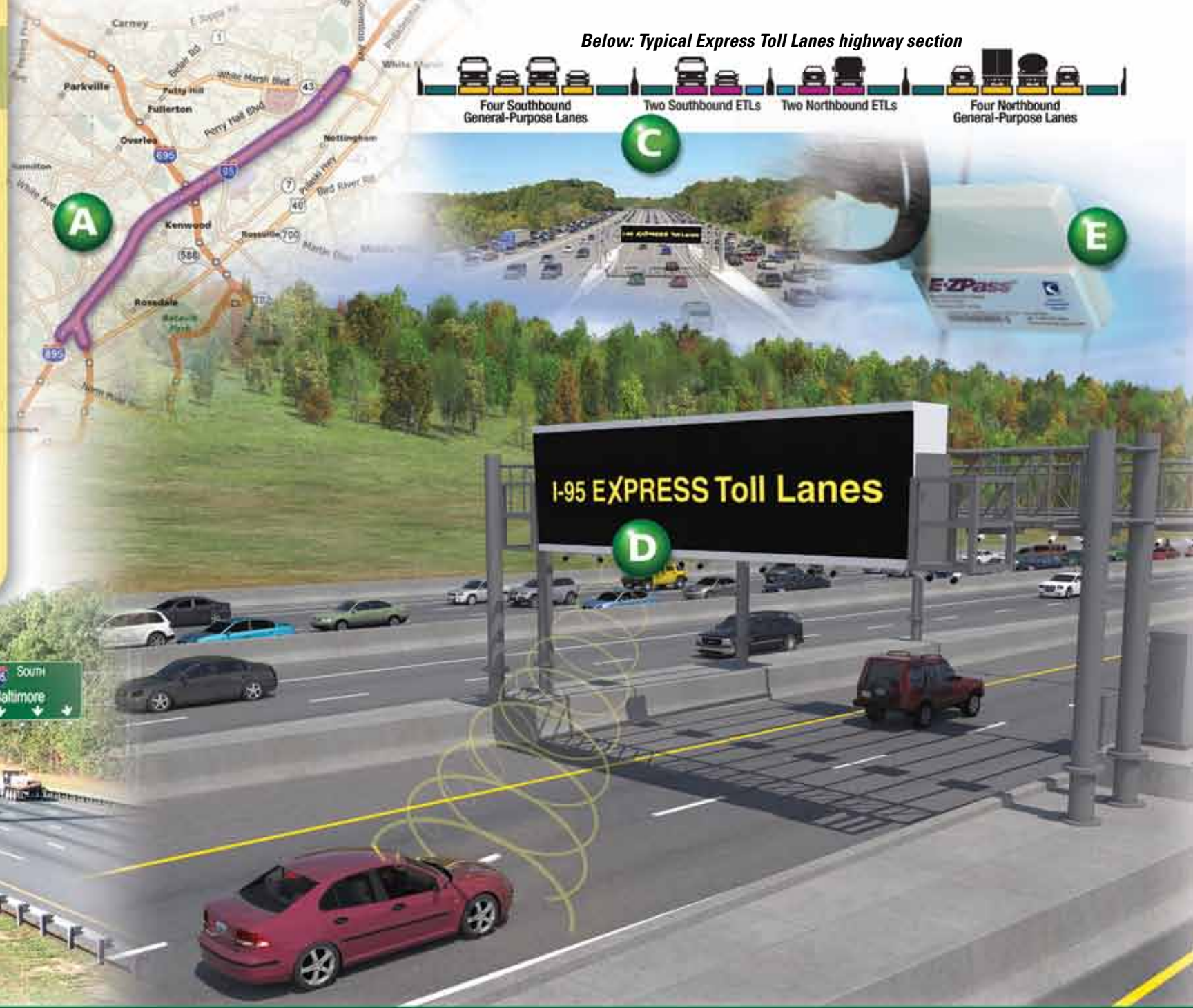
What to expect

Construction will be ongoing over the next several years. All existing travel lanes will be maintained in construction zones during peak-traffic periods to help minimize delays. As safety and operational improvements to the general-purpose lanes are completed, they will be opened to traffic. The project is funded entirely by toll revenues, not by taxes.



ETLs Features

- A** The ETLs project area covers about 8 miles of I-95 from the I-895 split to just north of White Marsh Blvd.
- B** Using ETLs is your choice. Drivers will have access at the southern (I-95/I-895 split) or the northern (north of MD 43) end points of the ETLs.
- C** The ETLs project includes four general-purpose travel lanes and two new Express Toll Lanes in each direction.
- D** ETLs will feature the latest toll-collection technology, with overhead gantries that will automatically process tolls at highway speeds (no slowing or stopping).
- E** Your *E-ZPass*[®] transponder is all you need to access the new Express Toll Lanes!



Below: Typical Express Toll Lanes highway section

It all starts with your *E-ZPass*[®]

The same *E-ZPass* transponder you use at Maryland toll facilities like the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel and the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge will give you access to I-95 Express Toll Lanes. It's important to remember that Express Toll Lanes require an active *E-ZPass* account.

If you have already activated an *E-ZPass* account, you are all set. If not, don't worry. Getting one is easy. You can register online, at www.ezpassmd.com or pick up an *E-ZPass* "On the Go" at participating Mars supermarkets, Giant food stores, and all central Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration sites.

Tolls collected automatically at highway speeds

You'll find that Express Toll Lanes work a little differently than most other Maryland toll facilities. Tolls will be collected automatically as you travel at highway speeds through the electronic toll collection area. There are no toll booths, and there is no need to slow down or stop.

Toll rates will be set according to the volume of traffic. During off-peak periods, when roads are less congested and traffic is flowing freely, tolls will be lower than during peak periods when traffic delays and back-ups tend to occur.