

Construction begins to remove Dallas North Tollway booths

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Construction crews are out this week on the Dallas North Tollway, converting toll-collection booths into cashless lanes.

The first week of construction will include installation of new signage, the erection of temporary concrete barriers and re-stripping of some lanes along the tollway between the LBJ Freeway and the Sam Rayburn Tollway (State Highway 121).

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The work is part of an effort by the North Texas Tollway Authority to eliminate cash tolls on its roads, something it hopes to accomplish by December of this year.

After that, all tollway motorists will either use TollTags or receive invoices, through a system known as Zipcash.

The goal is to reduce traffic backups and increase safety at toll collection points.

"The electronic booths will improve air quality and fuel efficiency and eliminate some safety hazards involved with operator-run facilities," said NTTA spokeswoman Susan Slupecki.

"Drivers will no longer have to weave in and out of lanes in order to get to the correct booth."

During the construction, all three main lanes of traffic will be moved, and shoulders will be reduced. Motorists will be instructed to reduce their speeds in work areas.

"We're doing our best to keep traffic flowing and drivers happy," Slupecki said. "Crews will be working during off-peak, low-traffic times and even during the night."