

## FACT SHEET



Existing toll plaza configuration

# I-78 TOLL PLAZA EXPRESS E-ZPASS/ORT PROJECT

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission is making final preparations to bring two Express E-ZPass lanes/ Open Road Tolling (ORT) lanes to the I-78 Toll Bridge's toll plaza in Williams Township, Northampton County, PA. The construction work could cause some traffic delays in 2010.

The I-78 Bridge serves as a critical link between Newark, N.J. and Harrisburg, Pa. and is heavily used by long-haul truckers going to and from the Newark/Elizabeth ports region. The I-78 facility has the highest traffic volumes of any of the seven toll bridges in the Commission's system.

Once Express E-ZPass technology is installed, motorists driving vehicles (cars and trucks) equipped with E-ZPass will be able to pay their tolls while driving at highway speeds. E-ZPass customers would have the option of driving through an array of high-speed transponder readers, avoiding the necessity of slowing down or stopping.

Express E-ZPass lanes can reduce traffic congestion by processing up to 1800 cars per hour per lane as compared to 360 cars per hour per lane by manual toll collection.

## TOLL PLAZA & APPROACH ROADWAY HISTORY/ CHARACTERISTICS

- The I-78 toll plaza handles westbound traffic. The approach roadway is a three-lane freeway in New Jersey and widens to four lanes near the Cedarville Road overpass after crossing into Pennsylvania. It expands to seven lanes 800 feet from the existing toll plaza, and narrows to two lanes 3,300 feet after the toll plaza.
- On average, more than 27,000 vehicles passed through the toll plaza each day in 2008.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

- The toll plaza currently consists of seven lanes. Five are mixed-mode (cash & E-ZPass) and two are E-ZPass-Only.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Improve traffic capacity, operations and safety at the toll plaza; reduce delays and traffic backups.

## PROJECT ELEMENTS:

### Toll Plaza and Approach Roadway

- The proposed toll plaza enhancements will result in two Express E-ZPass lanes and four mixed-mode toll lanes (Cash & E-ZPass). All lanes will be able to process car and truck transactions.
- Express E-ZPass lanes will be for through-traffic only. Motorists planning to use Exit 75 to Easton will be directed to the mixed-mode toll lanes.
- Prior to the installation of Express E-ZPass lanes, toll gates will be removed from all lanes and a new camera-based toll violator tracking system will be installed. This is scheduled to occur by early 2010 and it should help mitigate traffic delays associated with the Express E-ZPass project.
- Safety upgrades will include a concrete barrier between Express E-ZPass lanes and conventional toll lanes and easier-to-read LED toll plaza signage.
- New signage for Express E-ZPass and the toll plaza will be installed along the I-78 approach roadway.

### Project Cost and Schedule

- Total estimated project cost: \$5.6 million
- Anticipated construction start: January 2010
- Anticipated opening of Express E-ZPass lanes: May 26, 2010

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Commission is conducting a public involvement effort to raise awareness of the project and to provide the public with opportunities to review plans and provide comments. This outreach includes an open house for the general public and project stakeholders, informational communications such as this fact sheet, and a project-specific Web page.

### PROJECT WEB PAGE

Go to <http://www.drjtbtc.org>  
Click Commission Projects,  
then I-78 Open Road Tolling

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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