

About the I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes

Where are the I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes?

The I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes cover nine miles of I-66 between the I-495 interchange and U.S. Route 29 in Rosslyn near the Route 110 and Theodore Roosevelt Bridge split.

What changes are coming with the I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes?

All lanes on I-66 from I-495 to U.S. Route 29 in Rosslyn will become Express Lanes on weekdays during rush hours, in the peak commute direction.

Single-occupant vehicles may use I-66 Inside the Beltway during rush hour. For the first time, drivers traveling alone can choose to travel on I-66 Inside the Beltway during rush hours by paying a toll.

Carpoolers traveling with two or more people (High Occupancy Vehicle [HOV-2+]) may still use I-66 Inside the Beltway during rush hour. If carpooling as HOV-2+, drivers will travel toll-free but must have an E-ZPass Flex.

The HOV-2 requirement will change to HOV-3+ in 2022 when the I-66 Outside the Beltway Express Lanes open, matching the current HOV-3 requirement on the I-495 and I-95 Express Lanes. HOV-3 in 2022.

When will the I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes be in effect?

	Current	Express Lanes Hours
Eastbound	6:30 – 9 a.m. Monday through Friday	5:30 – 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
Westbound	4 – 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday	3 – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday

Express Lanes hours are extended from the current HOV-restricted hours to better manage traffic over a longer period and avoid congestion at the beginning and end of the restricted periods.

How soon can I use these Express Lanes?

The I-66 Inside the Beltway Express Lanes are scheduled to open in early December 2017.

Are there travel restrictions at other times?

The lanes are open to all traffic, except trucks, at all other times outside the weekday rush hours designated above, with no tolling, HOV requirements, or E-ZPass needed.

How do I pay my toll?

During operating hours, single-occupant drivers who use the lanes will pay their tolls with an E-ZPass. No toll booths or options to pay cash will exist.

How do I travel toll-free?

During operating hours, high-occupancy vehicles with 2 or more occupants must have an E-ZPass Flex switched in the HOV mode to ensure they are not charged a toll.

I am traveling to the Dulles Airport via I-66 Inside the Beltway. Am I exempt from paying a toll?

No. Current exemptions for vehicles bound for Dulles International Airport will no longer be in effect. Drivers traveling to and from Dulles Airport on I-66 Inside the Beltway during the Express Lanes hours must pay a toll with an E-ZPass if traveling alone, or have two or more occupants and an E-ZPass Flex switched to HOV mode to travel for free.

I drive a hybrid. Am I exempt from paying a toll?

No. Current exemptions for Clean Special Fuel License Plate vehicles (or hybrids) will no longer be in effect. Drivers traveling with a Clean Special Fuel License Plate on I-66 Inside the Beltway during the Express Lanes hours must pay a toll with an E-ZPass if traveling alone, or have two or more occupants and an E-ZPass Flex switched to HOV mode to travel for free.

Are buses allowed on the Express Lanes on I-66 Inside the Beltway?

Yes. Buses travel toll-free and will experience more reliable trips due to the managed express lanes. Buses need an E-ZPass Flex or a standard E-ZPass programmed to a bus classification.

Are motorcycles allowed on the Express Lanes on I-66 Inside the Beltway?

Yes. Motorcycles travel toll-free and do not need an E-ZPass to access the lanes.

How do I access the Express Lanes on I-66 Inside the Beltway?

You can access the Express Lanes at all existing entrances and exits on I-66 Inside the Beltway.

Who will own, operate and maintain the I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway?

The Virginia Department of Transportation will own and operate and maintain the I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway.

What happens to the toll revenue?

Tolls will be used by VDOT to operate and maintain the lanes, and then will be reinvested in the I-66 Corridor to help fund multimodal improvement projects such as new transit routes and park and ride lots to provide commuters with new travel choices.

What will the speed limit be on the I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway?

The posted speed limit will remain 55 miles per hour.

Are trucks allowed on the Express Lanes on I-66 Inside the Beltway?

No. Trucks are prohibited from traveling on this stretch of I-66 at all times.

How the Express Lanes Work

How will tolling work?

Tolls will be dynamic and will fluctuate depending on the amount of traffic on the Express Lanes.

How will traffic be managed on the Express Lanes?

As with other Express Lanes facilities, dynamic pricing will manage demand for the lanes to provide users a reliable trip. When traffic volumes increase, tolls will rise, and when traffic volumes decrease, toll rates will fall.

Why have Express Lanes?

Express Lanes will provide a more reliable trip by managing traffic demand for buses and carpoolers while giving a new choice for single-occupant vehicles.

How will I know my toll price?

Drivers will see two pricing signs before committing to take the express lanes. Signs will show the prices for up to three destinations. Even if your exit is not displayed, you will be able to get a general idea of the toll to your destination based on the other prices.

Will my toll rate change while I'm using the Express Lanes?

No. Drivers will lock in their toll price at the second pricing sign, just before entering the Express Lanes.

How can the mobile app help me decide whether to use the Express Lanes?

The free mobile app for the Express Lanes is designed to provide current toll price estimates and historical pricing data. As more information is gathered, you will have a better idea of what people have paid to use the Express Lanes on certain dates/times on average. This information may help you plan your commute and make your decision about whether to use the Express Lanes.

Express Lanes and E-ZPass

Do I need an E-ZPass?

Yes, you must have an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex properly mounted in your vehicle to use the Express Lanes. In addition, your E-ZPass account must always have a positive balance. No toll booths or options to pay cash will exist.

What happens if I use the Express Lanes without an E-ZPass?

If a vehicle uses the Express Lanes during operating hours without an E-ZPass, an image of the license plate will be captured and a violation notice requiring the payment of the toll plus an administrative fee will be issued to the registered owner of the vehicle.

What is the difference between an E-ZPass and an E-ZPass Flex?

A standard E-ZPass is a device you mount in your vehicle that enables electronic tolling equipment to deduct tolls from a pre-paid account when you use the Express Lanes or other tolled facilities. An E-ZPass Flex operates the same way when in toll mode, but can be switched to HOV mode for toll-free travel when two or more occupants are in your vehicle on the Express Lanes.

Vehicles with an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex switched to toll mode will be tolled.

Where can I get an E-ZPass?

You can get an E-ZPass on the Virginia E-ZPass website. To get an E-ZPass you will need your:

- Driver's license number
- License plate number
- Credit card information

You can also get an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex in Virginia at the following retail locations:

Northern Virginia

- AAA Mid-Atlantic locations, select Wegmans locations and select Giant Food Stores. Find a location near you at <https://www.ezpassva.com/EZPages/Retail-Locations.aspx>
- Select Department of Motor Vehicles (DMVs). Find a location near you at <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/DMVLocator/>
- Tysons Corner Center

If you live in Washington, D.C. and want an E-ZPass, you can sign up for an E-ZPass account in Virginia at <http://www.ezpassva.com/> or Maryland at <http://www.ezpassmd.com/>

In Virginia you can also call 877-762-7824 or visit your nearest E-ZPass Service Center.

How much does E-ZPass cost? Are there monthly fees?

There is no monthly fee to have an E-ZPass; however, there is an opening balance requirement of \$35 per transponder, all of which is available for the payment of tolls. Retail transponders can be obtained for \$35 with \$15 available for use immediately. The remaining \$20 is available after registering the transponder.

Note that the transponders remain the property of VDOT and must be returned to the Service Center when the account is closed or the customer will be liable for the lost/stolen fee (\$10 for a standard transponder, \$20 for a Flex transponder).

Is there a fee for an E-ZPass Flex?

If E-ZPass Flex holders do not use their transponder in the HOV mode for a period of more than six months, a one-time only fee of \$10 is charged. This fee covers the added costs that are incurred by VDOT to purchase E-ZPass Flex transponders from the manufacturer. The \$10 charge can be avoided by swapping the E-ZPass Flex for a standard E-ZPass.

How do I swap out my existing E-ZPass for an E-ZPass Flex?

You have several ways to exchange a regular E-ZPass for an E-ZPass Flex:

- Go to www.EZPassVA.com/EZPages/Get-Flex.aspx and look for "Make the switch to E-ZPass Flex" at the top of the page. Virginia E-ZPass will mail you an E-ZPass Flex and provide you an envelope to mail back your standard E-ZPass.
- Call the Customer Service Center (1-877-762-7824) – a Flex transponder can be sent to you. Virginia E-ZPass will mail you an E-ZPass Flex and you can use the enclosed envelope to mail back your standard E-ZPass. Or you can drop it off at one of the E-ZPass Customer Service Centers.
- Visit one of the E-ZPass Customer Service Centers. Find the Customer Service near you at <http://www.ezpassva.com/>

Transponder exchanges are not accepted at retail "On the Go" locations.

What happens if I forget to switch my E-ZPass Flex to HOV mode when I have two or more people in my car? Will I be charged a toll?

If your E-ZPass Flex is in "toll mode" when you enter the Express Lanes, you will be charged a toll. To ensure that you get your toll-free trip when traveling HOV-2+, it's important to make sure you switch your E-ZPass Flex to HOV mode before you get on the Express Lanes.

What happens if I forget to switch my E-ZPass Flex to toll mode when I'm traveling alone?

A state trooper could pull you over and issue a ticket for violation of HOV. Incorrect use of the E-ZPass Flex in HOV mode – including switching between travel modes while on the Express Lanes – may also result in a ticket or being charged. That's why it's important to make sure you select the travel mode on your E-ZPass Flex before you get on the road.

Stay Informed

- Stay updated about the I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway and other projects underway to transform the I-66 corridor by subscribing to our Transform 66 updates. <http://www.66expresslanes.org/>
- Follow [@vadotnova](https://twitter.com/vadotnova) on Twitter for the latest transportation information for Northern Virginia.
- View real-time traffic conditions and closures by clicking below or by downloading the free 511 mobile app. <http://www.511virginia.org/>
- Learn more about the Transform 66 Inside and Outside the Beltway programs. <http://www.transform66.org/>
- Learn about I-66 Commuter Choices such as buses, park and ride lots, transportation demand management and bike-sharing programs, which are being funded by toll revenues from the I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway. <http://www.novatransit.org/i66commuterchoice/>

Who to Contact

For questions about your E-ZPass account or tolling:

Contact: [877-762-7824](tel:877-762-7824)

Virginia Relay Center (TTY Callers): [800-828-1120](tel:800-828-1120)

Automated telephone system is available 24 hours / Customer service representatives are available Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Mail:

E-ZPass Customer Service Center

P.O. Box 1234, Clifton Forge, Virginia 24422-1234

For other questions related to I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway:

Contact: VDOT Customer Service Center at 1-800-FOR-ROAD ([1-800-367-7623](tel:1-800-367-7623))

TTY users can call 711.