

Frequently Asked Questions Open Road Tolling

Who is MDX?

The Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) is a State of Florida public agency created in 1994 by the Florida Legislature and the Miami-Dade County Commission. MDX has the responsibility to operate, maintain, improve and expand five expressways in Miami-Dade County: State Road 924 (Gratigny Parkway), State Road 112 (Airport Expressway), State Road 836 (Dolphin Expressway), State Road 874 (Don Shula Expressway), and State Road 878 (Snapper Creek Expressway).

Why was MDX created?

MDX was created to ensure that tolls collected on its system would remain in the county and be reinvested on the MDX system. Prior to MDX, tolls collected would be sent to Tallahassee and then redistributed throughout Florida. Improvements on MDX roads are funded by the very users that experience them.

Who makes up MDX?

MDX is governed by a 13-member volunteer board appointed by the Governor and the Miami-Dade County Commission. There is a professional staff which establish near term and long term work programs. For more information on MDX visit our website www.mdxway.com.

How are MDX and its projects funded?

MDX is entirely funded by toll revenues collected on its system. No funding is received from gas, property nor the half-penny sales tax. It is a user-funded system, and revenue collected is reinvested on system-wide improvements in the form of expressway extensions, new lanes and ramps, roadway maintenance, providing greater mobility and connectivity in the South Florida area.

What has MDX accomplished?

MDX has invested almost one billion dollars in improvements to its system in maintenance, capacity and operational improvements. New construction is the largest single component of MDX's investment of toll revenues to increase expressway capacity and improve the driving time and safety for its users. In some locations, MDX has added new lanes and provided safer entrance/exit ramps. Roadway and bridge maintenance and systemwide landscaping have also been implemented.

What is Open Road Tolling (ORT)?

Imagine an open road without needing to change lanes, stop your vehicle or even slow down to pay a toll. Imagine no more toll plazas or toll booths. Imagine a technology so advanced that the toll you pay is automatically calculated and deducted, paid instantly and accurately. Imagine paying only for the portion of the road you drive and everyone else doing the same. It's easy, convenient and safer. It's progress in motion.

What are the benefits of ORT?

FASTER TRAVEL

Eliminates the hassles of stop-and-go driving and merging in and out of traffic

INCREASED SAFETY

No more lane-change confusion or tollbooth accidents as a result of slow-downs, lines and stopped vehicles at toll plazas

CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

Eliminates idling at toll booths, so it creates improved fuel efficiency and reduces carbon monoxide and other emissions

FUTURE RESOURCES

Provides additional funding for roadway maintenance and improvements by collecting from all users

When and where will ORT begin?

The first expressway converted to ORT will be SR 924/Gratigny Parkway in the spring of 2010. Next in the summer of 2010, SR 874/Don Shula Expressway and SR 878/Snapper Creek Expressway will be converted. Lastly, SR 836/Dolphin Expressway and SR 112/Airport Expressway are scheduled to be converted in 2013.

How does ORT work?

Drivers pay their tolls electronically with the use of a SunPass, as they drive at highway speeds, under a gantry that is placed at periodic intervals along the expressway. The intent is that every user pays their fair share only for the portion of road they drive.

What is a gantry?

A gantry is an overhead structure that spans the roadway similar to roadway signs on our highways today. It holds the equipment that communicates with your SunPass. This equipment recognizes the portion of the road you use and deducts your SunPass account corresponding to only that portion.

What if I don't have a SunPass?

Every driver wishing to enter an ORT expressway should have a vehicle equipped with a SunPass. It is the fastest and more economical option for our customers. However, if you do not have a valid pre-paid SunPass account, MDX will bill you through the TOLL-BY-PLATE Program; MDX will obtain your mailing information from your state's vehicle registry and send you a bill shortly after you travel the MDX roadway.

What is TOLL-BY-PLATE?

TOLL-BY-PLATE is an option that allows MDX to bill you after you have used one of our expressways. As each vehicle passes under a gantry, a digital picture of the license plate is taken. If the car is not equipped with a SunPass, MDX will obtain the mailing address of the registered owner of the vehicle based on the snapshot and prepare a bill adding a 15 cent surcharge for each toll charge as well as a \$3.00 administrative charge for processing the bill. These additional charges are required to cover the increased expense of the TOLL-BY-PLATE option. All in all, it is still more economical and convenient to have a Sunpass account.

What about tourists driving their own cars to Florida who don't have a Sunpass?

Tourists will have several options from which to choose. They may want to buy a SunPass Mini for \$4.99 and open an account for the time they arrive with the option of cancelling their account upon their departure. The alternative is using the TOLL-BY-PLATE program and allowing MDX to bill them after they use the MDX expressways.

What if I am driving a rental car?

Most rental car companies provide a toll payment option. Be sure to ask when renting a vehicle.

When will the message go out to the public?

MDX will schedule advertised Public Meetings April 2010, to provide information to the public on SR 924/Gratigny Expressway and in May 2010, for SR 874/Don Shula Expressway and SR 878/Snapper Creek Expressway.

Please visit our ORT website for more information and updates

www.MDXORT.com

**If you have additional questions please email us at:
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