

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Prosecutor Preparing to File Charges Against Drivers Who Have Unpaid Tolls on 183A

(Cedar Park, TX) – Drivers who have used the 183A toll road without paying may find themselves in court soon. Beginning in January, the Williamson County Prosecutor will initiate legal proceedings against vehicle owners who have repeatedly ignored requests for payment.

"The vast majority of our customers pay for their use of 183A," says Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director of the Mobility Authority. "Those customers who pay their fair share expect that we are enforcing the law."

Drivers who use 183A without a valid TxTag are sent a bill in the mail. Roughly 10% of the drivers who use 183A are sent toll bills under the "Pay-By-Mail" program. If the bill is not paid within 30 days, the tolls are converted to violations and a violation notice is issued. If the violation notice goes unpaid, the registered owner of the vehicle can be charged with a misdemeanor and face fines and fees in excess of \$250.

The Mobility Authority has contracted with Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) to handle the billing and violation enforcement program on 183A. Vehicle owners may be able to avoid court by contacting MSB at 1-888-811-4565 to discuss payment options.

## **About Pay-By-Mail**

Pay-By-Mail customers are not required to prepay or register. Anyone who does not have a TxTag account automatically becomes a Pay-By-Mail customer when they pass through the electronic toll plazas on 183A. Equipment on the expressway takes a picture of their license plate, and that information is then used to identify the registered owner of the vehicle. A bill for the tolls is then sent to the registered owner's address.

Due to the administrative costs associated with identifying vehicle owners and distributing bills, Pay-By-Mail customers are charged a slightly higher rate than TxTag customers and incur a \$1.00 convenience charge per

bill. Customers have 30 days to pay their bill either by mail, in person, over the phone or online at www.paytexastoll.com.

Pay-By-Mail customers who fail to pay their Toll Bills are subject to the following violations policy:

- Failure to pay a Toll Bill within 30 days will result in the vehicle owner receiving a Notice of Toll Violation. An additional \$15 administrative fee is added to the original Toll Bill.
- Failure to pay a Notice of Toll Violation within 30 days will result in the vehicle owner receiving a Final Notice of Toll Violation. An additional \$15 administrative fee is added to the original Toll Bill.
- Failure to remit payment within 30 days of receiving a Final Notice of Toll Violation will result in the vehicle owner being referred to collections.
- If the collection process is unsuccessful, the vehicle owner may be charged with a misdemeanor.

The additional fees are intended to cover the cost of pursuing unpaid toll bills.

## **About the Mobility Authority**

The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority is a local, independent government agency created to improve the regional transportation system. Our mission is to implement innovative solutions that reduce congestion and create transportation choices that enhance quality of life and economic vitality. The Mobility Authority is the state's first Regional Mobility Authority, created in January 2003 to serve Travis and Williamson counties.