

Electronic Tolling

What is Electronic Tolling?

Toll collection hasn't always been easy. In the 1940s drivers paid toll attendants with punch card toll tickets, which were easily misplaced or lost. In the 1960s drivers began using magnetic strip toll tickets or automatic coin machines—which can be a hassle for drivers who don't have exact change on hand.

In the 1980s & '90s, toll collection technology experienced a breakthrough with the emergence of electronic toll collection.

Smart Tag, a transponder-based electronic toll collection system, was introduced in Virginia in 1996. It allowed drivers to continue moving through specially marked toll lanes without having to come to a complete stop. Smart Tag holders didn't have to worry about having cash on hand, because electronic readers automatically deducted tolls from their accounts when passing through toll lanes. Smart Tag later became known as E-ZPass, joining a multi-state electronic toll network allowing for the seamless use of one tag, up and down the East Coast.

Electronic Tolling has been rapidly gaining popularity in Virginia and across the nation because it is convenient and easy to use.

What is E-ZPass?

In Virginia and several other states, the electronic toll collection system used is called EZPass.

To use E-ZPass, drivers must first open a prepaid account. They are then given a special electronic transponder to affix to their car windshield. Each E-ZPass transponder contains a battery-powered electronic chip with a unique identification code, so when drivers pass through a toll lane, the toll is electronically deducted from their account.

E-ZPass is accepted in the following states: Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

E-Z Pass information

If you are a Virginia resident and would like to begin using E-ZPass, apply at www.ezpassva.com or call (877) 762-7824.

For more information, check out www.ezpassva.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Virginia's Electronic Tolling method?

E-ZPass. All toll roads in Virginia, except the Jordan Bridge in Hampton Roads, accept E-ZPass.

How does Electronic Tolling work in Virginia?

Drivers attach an electronic transponder (E-ZPass) to their windshield. When passing through a tollgate, an antenna reads their E-ZPass and the toll is automatically deducted from the driver's pre-paid account, so there's no need to stop at a tollbooth to pay cash. Electronic Tolling in Virginia helps save time, and reduce traffic.

What are the benefits of Electronic Tolling?

- Drivers don't have to come to a complete stop to pay a toll.
- Because there is less idling in lines at the toll plaza, it can be better for the environment.
- Service is faster and more efficient.
- Drivers no longer have to worry about having cash or exact change on hand.
- Saves money on gas, since there's less stop and go.
- It costs less than constructing, maintaining and staffing multiple toll booths.
- The proceeds can be used to improve transportation choices.