



E-ZPass Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Member Interoperability

Today 25 Member Agencies in 15 States Provide Seamless Mobility for Travelers

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Media Contact: PJ Wilkins, E-ZPass Group, (302)416-0987, pj.wilkins@e-zpassiag.com

(Wilmington, DE)– This Saturday, Aug. 3, 2013, marks the 20th anniversary of E-ZPass electronic toll collection interoperability. Drivers equipped with a single transponder throughout 15 states and 25 member organizations are able to use any toll road, lane or facility within the E-ZPass network without worry of being a violator.

“The E-ZPass program defines innovation, customer service and serves as a model for the successful implementation of interoperability in the transportation tolling marketplace,” said P J Wilkins, executive director, E-ZPass Group.

Originally formed in 1990 by seven toll facilities in the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the E-ZPass Interagency Group’s goal was to implement a regionally compatible electronic toll collection system that would meet the needs of the participating agencies and, more importantly, provide a convenient system of toll payment to customers. Within three years, interoperability between the agencies became a reality.

“As one of the founding members of the E-ZPass Group, it is remarkable to see how this program has grown since its inception to encompass member agencies across the Northeast, Southeast and even into the Midwest United States,” said Veronique Hakim, executive director, New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Today the E-ZPass Group operates the largest, most successful interoperable toll network in the world. There are more than 25 million transponders in use, and last year more than 2.4 billion transactions were processed.

“Since the Ohio Turnpike implemented E-ZPass on October 1, 2009, we have issued 185,274 transponders to customers,” said Executive Director Rick Hodges. “In July 2013, the Ohio Turnpike issued 7,796 transponders of which 4,248 were to customers who obtained them through our retail program at the Ohio Turnpike’s service plazas.”

Hodges added, “We attribute the success of our E-ZPass program to the significant savings customers realize when using this technology, along with its undeniable convenience and ease of use.”

As modern tolling becomes a highly preferred alternative to fund our roadways without raising traditional gas taxes, Wilkins said it's more important than ever that all of the nation's toll agencies become interoperable for seamless travel.

"This 20th anniversary highlights the promise and potential of interoperability," he said. "E-ZPass clearly has laid the groundwork to advance interoperability throughout North America. Our goal remains to provide both our affiliated members and the driving public with a seamless experience, whether it's on a toll road, bridge or tunnel."

The organization is partnering with regional, national and international organizations to advance toll interoperability and identify related transportation solutions. A significant partner in this endeavor is the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA).

Patrick Jones, executive director and CEO of the IBTTA said, "The founders of E-ZPass were visionaries who saw the opportunity to improve the efficiency and widespread use of tolling by making it more convenient for motorists. As we approach this 20th anniversary, we salute the men and women whose passion and dedication led to the creation of the largest, multi-state, non-interfering electronic toll collection system in the world."

For more information on the E-ZPass Group, please visit www.e-zpassag.com.

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OHIO TURNPIKE STATS: The Ohio Turnpike implemented E-ZPass on October 1, 2009. Since that time, we have issued 185,274 transponders to customers. In July 2013, the Turnpike issued 7,796 transponders of which 4,248 were issued at the Turnpike's service plazas (as part of its retail program.) Media Inquiries regarding E-ZPass on the Ohio Turnpike, contact Lauren Hakos (440) 234-2081 x1171.

EDITOR'S NOTE: P J Wilkins and Patrick Jones are available for interviews Friday, August 2, 2013 to discuss the importance of interoperability, the expansion of tolling in the United States and lessons learned from implementing interoperability in a large portion of the nation.