



# News from the Ohio Turnpike

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**For Immediate Release:**

## **Discount Drug Mart to offer *E-ZPass* to its customers**

**BEREA** (June 21, 2016) – The Ohio Turnpike continues to expand its *E-ZPass*® partnerships with retailers. Beginning this weekend, Discount Drug Mart, Inc. will be offering *E-ZPass* transponders at 30 northern Ohio stores throughout seven counties.

In its first six years and seven months of operation on the Ohio Turnpike, *E-ZPass* saved its customers more than \$287 million compared to customers who paid cash over the same period. The number of overall users and vehicle miles travelled with *E-ZPass* has increased steadily since the program began on the Ohio Turnpike in 2009. In 2015, 47.6 percent of passenger vehicle customers who travel the Turnpike used *E-ZPass*.

“In a continued effort to be responsive to our customers, we are making it easier than ever to acquire an *E-ZPass* transponder by adding Discount Drug Mart as retail partner,” said Ohio Turnpike Executive Director Randy Cole. “Drug Mart is a highly respected brand name in retail and we are happy to partner with them.”

“We’re very excited about our new partnership with the Ohio Turnpike,” said Discount Drug Mart Buyer John Graycar. “Offering *E-ZPass* is one additional way to save our customers the runaround. We’re looking forward to working with the great team at the Ohio Turnpike.”

With 37 tolling authorities in 16 states – and growing—*E-ZPass* represents the largest and most successful interoperable tolling network in the world.

“Our customers will save both time and money using *E-ZPass*,” added Cole. In fact, the average savings on tolls is 33 percent and customers can save up to 50 percent on a single trip.”

### ***E-ZPass* by the Numbers:**

- Thirty Discount Drug Mart locations will offer *E-ZPass* transponders for passenger vehicles in seven northern Ohio Counties (Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Sandusky and Summit).
- *E-ZPass* transponders are \$12 at all retail locations. Allow up to 24 hours for activation in Ohio and up to 48 hours for use of the transponder in other states.
- A credit card and a minimum balance of \$25 per transponder are required to open an account.
- Savings realized by all *E-ZPass* customers since 2009: \$287,000,000 (as of 4/30/2016).
- About 54.9 percent of all customers currently use *E-ZPass*.
- Almost 10,000 Ohio *E-ZPass* customers use the system for at least 30 trips per month.
- In 2015, 59.4 percent (1.78 billion) of vehicle miles travelled were by *E-ZPass* customers.

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**About Discount Drug Mart**

Discount Drug Mart, Inc. is an Ohio-based drug store chain that opened its first store in Elyria, Ohio in 1969. Since that time, Drug Mart has established stores in over 20 Ohio counties, and currently operates 73 stores, including Dayton and Columbus. The company also expects to announce further expansion within the year.

Low prices, outstanding customer service and broad-based product lines are at the heart of Drug Mart's growth and success. The company slogan says it all: "Discount Drug Mart Saves You the Runaround...We Have Everything You Need."

**About E-ZPass**

*E-ZPass* is an electronic toll collection system that allows customers to enter and exit the Turnpike without stopping to receive a ticket or to pay the toll. *E-ZPass* saves both time and money. Travelers receive an average 33 percent discount from their toll charge for using *E-ZPass*. The Ohio Turnpike *E-ZPass* maintenance fee (75 cents per month) is waived for frequent Ohio Turnpike travelers—those who take the Ohio Turnpike for 30 or more single trips per month.

*E-ZPass* is also available at 90 northeast Ohio Giant Eagle Stores in 13 counties and at 72 northeast Ohio area GetGo locations in 15 counties. In northwest, Ohio, *E-ZPass* is available at Barney's Convenience Marts at 18 locations in Lucas and Wood Counties. It can also be obtained through [www.ezpassoh.com](http://www.ezpassoh.com), at any of the 14 Ohio Turnpike Service Plaza locations or by calling the Customer Service Center at 440-234-2081 ext. 1075.

**The Ohio Turnpike** is a 241-mile toll road offering one of the safest, best and most convenient routes for motorists to reach east/west destinations along the northern corridor of Ohio. The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission provides excellent customer service and amenities to meet travelers' wants and needs, including state-of-the-art service plazas, a variety of restaurant choices, and routine maintenance for a smooth, pleasant trip.

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**For more information please contact:**

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