

News from the Ohio Turnpike Commission

682 Prospect Street ***** Berea, Ohio 44017-2799 440.234.2081 (P) ***** 440.234.3881 (F) *www.ohioturnpike.org*

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Contact: Lauren Hakos Marketing & Communications Mgr.

Motorists can now enjoy using *E-ZPass[®]* in North Carolina

<u>Berea, Ohio – January 3, 2013</u> – Starting today, drivers with an *E-ZPass*[®] transponder can add the North Carolina Turnpike to the list of 24 other toll agencies that currently accept this technology.

"This is an exciting day for travelers within the 15 state *E-ZPass*[®] region and a monumental business agreement for the tolling industry," said *E-ZPass*[®] Group's Executive Director PJ Wilkins.

While the North Carolina Turnpike Authority has had electronic tolling in place for some time, their "NC Quick Pass" was not readable in other states. Now, the interoperability feature between these systems will allow *E-ZPass*[®] customers to use their transponder on the North Carolina Turnpike and NC Quick Pass customers to use their transponder in all states that operate with the *E-ZPass*[®] system.

Since toll technology has advanced greatly over the years, more toll agencies are considering technology that is compatible with well-established electronic tolling programs, such as *E-ZPass*[®]. The *E-ZPass*[®] Group (formerly known as The Interagency Group) oversees the largest tolling program in the United States with more than 22 million *E-ZPass*[®] transponders in circulation.

While North Carolina is the first state to add the interoperability feature, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Gene Conti believes that other states should implement an agreement of this

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kind with *E-ZPass*[®]. He stated, "We hope that other states will join as well so that all US drivers can share in this convenience."

Travelers using *E-ZPass*[®] on the Ohio Turnpike pay lower tolls (up to 50% savings) than cashpaying customers. To open an *E-ZPass*[®] account individuals can go online to <u>www.ohioturnpike.org</u> and click the *E-ZPass*[®] logo from the home page or call the Customer Service Center at 440-234-2081 x1075.

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