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Overland Park City Council hears results of study on adding toll lane to U.S. 69

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Want faster, less-congested trips along U.S. Highway 69? What's it worth to you?

That's the issue the Overland Park City Council will take up at its Monday meeting, when it will [hear results of a study considering adding an express toll lane on the heavily traveled highway](#). The Kansas Department of Transportation has studied the issue and will lay out its findings and assumptions. The City Council will listen Monday and take up the issue of whether to push ahead for a toll plan at its June 21 meeting.

The 69 Express study looked at adding a third lane in each direction on the highway between 103rd Street and 179th Street. The existing two lanes in each direction would remain toll-free.

Adding express toll lanes would reduce congestion along the highway while making travel time more predictable, according to



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A study shows how express toll lanes could help speed traffic along U.S. Highway 69 in Overland Park.

the study. The toll lanes would be built inside the existing lanes and separated from free lanes by a buffer and double stripe.

Drivers would be able to use the express lanes and pay the toll without stopping, using a K-TAG or transponder, or get an invoice based on their license plate. Pricing for the express toll lanes would fluctuate through the day, based on traffic volume, and would be posted on overhead signs.

The study looked at toll rates that would cover costs and manage congestion, and compare with peer and national average rates. It showed an average toll of 32 cents a mile, compared with a national average of 56 cents a mile. The toll would generate between \$2 million and \$3 million through 2025 and increase to just below \$12 million in 2050 under a [Mid-America Regional Council](#) traffic growth projections, or a little more than half of that under a conservative traffic growth projection.

[A summary of the study](#) shows plans for building the express toll lanes from 103rd Street to 151st Street in the first phase, with access points at 103rd Street, where the Blue Valley Parkway joins and at 143rd Street. A second phase would extend the lanes to 179th Street, with an access point there.

If the Overland Park City Council decides to enter a joint proposal for express lanes with the Kansas Department of Transportation, the matter would go to the [Kansas Turnpike Authority](#) board and the State Finance Council for approval. If approved, construction could begin as early as next year.

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