

# THE TRUTH ABOUT TOLLS

- 1 The toll plan gives an **unelected bureaucracy** the authority to tax us without limit and with no accountability to the voters. That's taxation without representation which has birthed the 21st century version of the Boston Tea Party, the San Antonio Toll Party ([www.SATollParty.com](http://www.SATollParty.com)) and the Texas Toll Party ([www.TexasTollParty.com](http://www.TexasTollParty.com)).
- 2 **Tolling Texans has been mandated STATEWIDE** by the Governor-appointed Texas Transportation Commission and our Legislature. ALL new roads even new lanes will be **TOLLED!** So whether we drive in San Antonio, Austin, or elsewhere, we're going to be suffocated by tolls with no end in sight. Transportation Commission Chair Ric Williamson said, "In your lifetime, most existing roads will have tolls." That's a tax increase the size of Texas!
- 3 Tolls on existing roads amounts to **DOUBLE TAXATION**. State and federal tax dollars were used to build Hwy 281 and now they're taxing us again to drive on it. If they can do it on US 281, Loop 1604, and I-35, they'll do it elsewhere. Tolls will cost the average family \$2,000-4,000 a year! That's nearly double what TxDOT gets for an average family of four in Texas per year!
- 4 A gross **mismanagement of funds**-- a horrible fraud is being committed against taxpayers. TxDOT's figures just for the road improvements on 281 have gone from \$48 million up to nearly \$83 million. They had an already funded project that was to start construction in 2004 and BE NEAR COMPLETION ALREADY, but they yanked it in order to CHARGE US FOR EVERY MILE EVERY TIME WE DRIVE ON IT! The only non-toll option will be access roads, not freeway lanes. This is happening on other highway projects all over Texas.
- 5 The State is handing control of our freeways over to a private company to craft a **SECRET 50 year deal** that's not open for the taxpayers to see. The Attorney General ordered them to reveal it, but TxDOT is using YOUR tax money to sue to keep it sealed! We wouldn't turn our public assets like our water supply over to a private company to manipulate, ration, or profit from, so we must STOP this from happening to our freeways!
- 6 TWICE the voters of San Antonio voted to protect the aquifer from this type of excessive plan, and yet they're going to build an excessively larger toll project at a cost of tens of millions more. We just passed a sales tax dedicated for State highway projects in November 2004, and San Antonio is now the only Texas city to have a sales tax dedicated for highways. Now tolls, too?

- 7 TxDOT says it's a choice between a 25 cent gas tax hike or tolls. **THAT'S NOT TRUE!** Some transportation folks in Austin reveal it would only take a 2 cent regional or statewide gas tax increase to make needed road improvements. Meanwhile, 25% of the gas tax goes to fund public schools.
- 8 We stand to be **priced off the freeway** due to these tolls, especially commuters. We face congestion problems not due to a lack of roads, but due to mismanagement of road funds and projects. In fact, there are only four large U.S. cities that have more lane-miles of freeway per person than San Antonio.
- 9 **Texans NEED a referendum process.** It's clear that Texans need some form of referendum or initiative process in order to redress the government for our grievances such as this. The Governor, TxDOT, and our legislators are NOT listening to the public outcry on tolling our freeways, so we need a referendum to be able to roll back laws like this to prevent this sort of runaway government from happening again!

We're being taxed without accountability to the voters. There is **no cap on how much we'll be charged**. There is **no sunset on when they'll cease**. There are **environmental concerns** with the aquifer. We're facing a gasoline price crisis, and we're being **double taxed for roads we've already paid for**. **Time for a taxpayer revolt!** We don't need a new government entitlement.

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**San Antonio Toll Party**

[www.SATollParty.com](http://www.SATollParty.com) **A Taxpayer Revolt Like the Boston Tea Party**

South Texans for Good Government, PAC, Sudie Sartor, Treasurer (210) 496-2997

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