

# Overview

I-66 now operates strictly as express lanes with a toll during peak travel hours during the week.

## What is the I-66 Inside the Beltway program?

Virginia's Department of Transportation (VDOT) plans to transform I-66 both inside and outside of the Beltway to better mitigate traffic. From Exit 64 (I-495 interchange) in Fairfax County to Exit 72 (Rt 29/Lee Highway) in Arlington County, the stretch of interstate between these two points are defined as inside the Beltway.

I-66 now operates strictly as express lanes with a toll during peak travel hours during the week. Outside of tolling hours of operation, and during holidays, entry to the express lanes is free.

In the first year, toll revenue will fund 10 multimodal projects to enhance predictability and travel time on I-66. Projects include expanded bus service, extended transit access through bikeshare, real-time transit displays, and more, as selected by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

## What part of I-66 is considered inside the Beltway?

From Exit 64 (I-495 interchange) in Fairfax County to Exit 72 (Rt 29/Lee Highway) in Arlington County, the stretch of interstate between these two points is defined as inside the Beltway. Once a driver passes I-495, this stretch of road is considered outside the Beltway.

## Is there an age minimum for a carpool? Who counts?

There is no age minimum when it comes to a carpool. You can carpool with your children or other adults.

## I use I-66 to commute to and from work. How will the program affect my commute?

If you drive alone eastbound on I-66 during the hours of 5:30–9:30 a.m. from Monday to Friday, you will be subject to a toll. If you ride with at least one additional person in the car and have an E-ZPass Flex, you can travel I-66 for free.

The same rules apply for anyone traveling westbound from 3:00–7:00 p.m. during the weekdays.

Anyone traveling outside of these hours or in the opposite direction will not be affected by tolling.

## What are my options?

Anyone can use the I-66 Express Lanes, with a valid E-ZPass mounted in the car. Commuters can choose to pay a toll if driving alone or can consider sharing the ride. Carpools and vanpools travel for free on the I-66 Express Lanes with an E-ZPass Flex; additionally, commuters can choose a regional bus option\* like the Fairfax Connector or Loudoun County Transit to travel the I-66 corridor.

*\*Prices for commuter buses vary.*

## Who can use the I-66 Express Lanes?

The express lanes are officially open to everyone now, if you have an E-ZPass mounted in your car. Vans, buses, single occupant drivers, taxis, carpools, and more can all use the express lanes – there are no restrictions.

# Tolling

| Dynamic Tolling is in effect on I-66.

## What are the toll hours of operation?

Tolls are in effect Monday through Friday, 5:30–9:30 a.m. (traveling eastbound) and 3:00–7:00 p.m. (traveling westbound).

## What is the maximum toll?

There is no maximum toll along the I-66 Express Lanes. It is based entirely on demand for the lanes and prices will adjust with current traffic volume.

## How do I know the price of my toll?

Before accessing the I-66 Express Lanes, drivers will see two pricing signs before committing to use the lanes. The price on the final toll sign is the driver's toll and is locked in automatically via the E-ZPass when entering the express lanes.

## What is dynamic tolling?

Dynamic tolling means the price that a driver will pay to use the express lanes is based entirely on the demand for the road. Toll prices adjust to manage traffic and to maintain a free flow speed of 45 mph. When there is more traffic, the toll price will be higher; when there is less traffic, the toll price

will be lower.

By choosing to pay the toll, a road user can expect a more predictable trip along the I-66 corridor.

## How does the electronic toll system work?

The electronic toll gantries along the corridor are monitoring the distance of your trip as well as the current demand for the lanes. You are not charged every time you travel under a gantry; you are only charged when you enter the lanes.

## Frequently Asked Questions

# E-ZPass

Every I-66 road user needs an E-ZPass. You should choose the standard or the flex based on your plans to carpool.

## Do I need an E-ZPass?

Yes – every I-66 road user needs an E-ZPass. You should choose the standard or the flex based on your plans to carpool. Those previously exempt (e.g., hybrid/clean fuel cars, Dulles Airport staff) will now be required to pay a toll.

The only exception to this rule is for motorcycles and on duty law enforcement.

## What's the difference between the E-ZPass (standard) and E-ZPass Flex?

The standard is best if you drive alone. The flex is best if you plan to carpool (HOV2+ is free).

If you do not use your E-ZPass Flex within the first six months, you will be charged a small fee. You should only purchase the flex if you plan to regularly carpool during commute hours.

## What happens if I use the lanes without an E-ZPass?

If you use the I-66 Express Lanes without an E-ZPass, you will receive a toll invoice in the mail. The invoice will be mailed to the address associated with the car using the lanes. Alternatively, you can visit [ezpassva.com](https://ezpassva.com) to pay your missed toll.

## What if I don't have an E-ZPass?

You need an E-ZPass (standard or flex) to travel the I-66 lanes. You can purchase one from the Arlington Commuter Stores as well as at the DMV, AAA, and select grocery stores.

Visit [ezpassva.com](https://ezpassva.com) or call 877.762.7824 for additional information.

## How much does an E-ZPass cost?

An E-ZPass costs \$35 with \$15 available in toll fare. The remaining \$20 balance is available as toll fare once you register your E-ZPass online, essentially making the E-ZPass free.

When you register your E-ZPass, you can also connect it to a credit card to automatically add funds when low. The minimum add is \$35.

## What happens if I use my E-ZPass Flex without other people in the car?

I-66 will be monitored by toll enforcement officers. If you use your E-ZPass Flex without the required number of people in the car (HOV2+), you will be pulled over and fined. Toll enforcement will spot check your car and are notified by the gantries which type of E-ZPass you are attempting to use.