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# OPINION BLOG

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**About This Blog**

This blog was the first in the nation created by an editorial board to give readers a behind-the-scenes view of the discussion that goes into crafting the newspaper's daily editorials. It includes updates on the work of the editorial staff and debates on general news issues.

**Letters to the Editor**

We welcome and read all letters from readers. Letters are selected for publication based on their clarity and brevity. They also are chosen to represent a diverse set of views on as many issues as possible.

- View all letters
- City of Dallas
- Dallas ISD
- Economy
- Religion
- State Politics

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**November 2009**

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« Palestinian despair | Main | A morning laugh, compliments of The Houston Chronicle »

**Transparency for NTTA**

5:36 PM Sun, Nov 15, 2009 | Permalink  
Letter to the Editor E-mail Suggest a blog topic

Re: "Oversight for NTTA -- Tollway agency would benefit from state analysis," Thursday Editorials.

Oversight from the state auditor and the Texas Sunset Commission for the **North Texas Tollway Authority** would be a wise move. But it is in taxpayers' best interests to move beyond a model where only a handful of public officials can scrutinize detailed information about NTTA's dealings -- or any transportation authority, for that matter.

Simple things like posting the agency's check register online and displaying agencies winning and losing contract bids would go a long way toward putting more eyeballs on the agency's activities and controlling waste.

It's unfortunate that this conversation has to take place at all, given that there was an amendment added to the Texas Department of Transportation sunset bill in the House to bring financial transparency to NTTA, which failed because of the Senate's reluctance.

If NTTA won't voluntarily provide such transparency, hopefully the Legislature will consider empowering taxpayers and tollpayers to learn for themselves where and how their money is being spent.

*Justin Keener, vice president of policy and communications, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin*

**Comments**

Posted by **Jack B.** @ 7:09 PM Sun, Nov 15, 2009

I'd love to see a detailed audit on NTTA with detailed analysis showing where every penny went and with specific names attached to the money recipients.

I'd also like to see where the up front cash payment money to the various cities has gone.

Does anyone know how much money ends up in wall street's hands? Or, how much money is taken out of the local economies?

How does an entity suck \$400 million a year out of drivers hands and not have an impact on the local economy?

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!

[report as objectionable](#)

Posted by **John** @ 7:35 PM Sun, Nov 15, 2009

Has anyone lese noticed all the cameras installed along the 121 tollroad? his seems like a waste of toll road revenue. What purpose do these cameras serve? If they truly served a useful purpose, don't you think every highway would have them?

[report as objectionable](#)

Posted by **Big Kev** @ 12:28 AM Mon, Nov 16, 2009

John, the cameras are for tolls on people that don't have tolltags. They take your picture and send you a bill, I've got them before. Jack B., I live in Plano, we are run thru with tollways, 190, Dallas North and 121. They have raised the tolls so much now, it is having a serious effect on my household budget. When the tolls were reasonable, it was easy to drive them to and from work and around town. Now, it's getting to be a \$40 to \$50 dollar bill every week. We have put all of the taxpayers in the hands of a private for profit company that has lots of lobbyist in Austin. Next election, we need to ask our STAATE Representatives about getting these tollways eliminated, buy out the contracts, use the domain law against them but get rid of them.

[report as objectionable](#)

Comments:

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Editorial: Kunkle shows in 5 years how much he could help

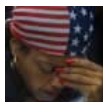
Editorial: 'Constables Gone Wild,' episode too many

Editorial: Oversight for NTTA

Editorial: South Dallas group creates its own action plan

Editorial: Senate bill must honestly address rising health costs

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- Panel of experts



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