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**THE NEW WESTPARK TOLLWAY OPENS TODAY:  
*PROVIDES DIRECT, EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO UPTOWN HOUSTON***

***Uptown workers, retailers and visitors eagerly await new tollway***

**HOUSTON** (May 1, 2004) – Beginning and ending in Uptown Houston, the Harris County Toll Road Authority’s new Westpark Tollway officially opens today, Saturday, May 1. The tollway extends from the intersection of Post Oak Boulevard and Richmond in Uptown Houston to just west of Beltway 8 at Old Westheimer. It is also the first of its kind in Harris County because access is limited to EZ Tag users only.

“The opening of the Westpark Tollway is enormously significant for our area,” said John Breeding, Uptown Houston District president. “Just as the Sam Houston Toll Road has transformed development in West Houston, we believe the Westpark Tollway will forever change traffic patterns and development in Uptown Houston.”

Rapidly growing west and southwest Houston communities will benefit by receiving direct and exclusive access to the central part of the city, including Uptown Houston, from Highway 6 and Beltway 8. In addition, the Westpark Tollway will allow inbound commuters from US 59 to quickly and conveniently enter Uptown Houston while avoiding IH-610 West Loop congestion. It may also serve as an alternative route for IH-10 commuters to bypass traffic congestion as the Katy Freeway reconstruction progresses.

## **WESTPARK TOLLWAY OPENS: PROVIDES DIRECT ACCESS TO UPTOWN/add 1**

“One of our top priorities is to improve accessibility to Uptown Houston and the completion of the Westpark Tollway puts us one step closer to becoming one of the most convenient and accessible locations in the city,” said Breeding. “Because Uptown Houston is the second largest business district in Houston and hosts nearly 200,000 office workers and shoppers each day, this major milestone is important not only to our area but to all of Houston.”

To learn more about the Westpark Tollway or Uptown Houston, please visit [www.uptown-houston.com](http://www.uptown-houston.com). To purchase an EZ Tag online, go to [www.eztagstore.com](http://www.eztagstore.com), call 281-875-3279 or visit one of three EZ Tag Stores.

### **About Uptown Houston**

Created in 1987, the Uptown Houston District occupies 500 acres in the heart of the Uptown Houston/Galleria area and provides a variety of services and improvements for the area including traffic operations, public maintenance and beautification, infrastructure improvements, economic development and marketing. The mission of the District is to continually refine and enhance its unparalleled amenities and exceptional beauty by improving accessibility, enhancing identity and sustaining the vibrant community that is Uptown Houston.

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