



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 10, 2016

Ms. Helen Johnson  
Paralegal  
North Texas Tollway Authority  
5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100  
Plano, Texas 75093

OR2016-25079

Dear Ms. Johnson:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 640181 (ORR# 2016-02625).

The North Texas Tollway Authority (the "authority") received a request for photographs of a specified car and trailer. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information other statutes make confidential. The authority is governed by the Texas Regional Tollway Authority Act, chapter 366 of the Transportation Code. Section 366.178 of the Transportation Code provides in relevant part:

(b-1) As an alternative to requiring payment of a toll at the time a vehicle is driven or towed through a toll assessment facility, the authority shall use video recordings, photography, electronic data, transponders, or other tolling

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<sup>1</sup>We note the authority did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting a ruling from this office. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b), (e). Nonetheless, because the exception you claim can provide a compelling reason to overcome the presumption of openness, we will consider its applicability to the submitted information. *See id.* §§ 552.007, .302, .352.

methods to permit the registered owner of the nonpaying vehicle to pay the toll at a later date or provide toll exemptions. Information collected under this subsection, including contact, payment, and other account information and trip data, is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

Transp. Code § 366.178(b-1). You inform us as an alternative to payment of a toll at the time a vehicle is driven on the authority's tollway, the authority permits individuals to pay a higher toll rate at a later date through the ZipCash invoicing system. You state the submitted information was collected by the authority pursuant to this subsection "to identify the registered owner of the nonpaying vehicle and issue the ZipCash invoice or provide toll exemptions[.]" Based on your representations and our review, we find the authority must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 366.178(b-1) of the Transportation Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CVMS/som

Ref: ID# 640181

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)