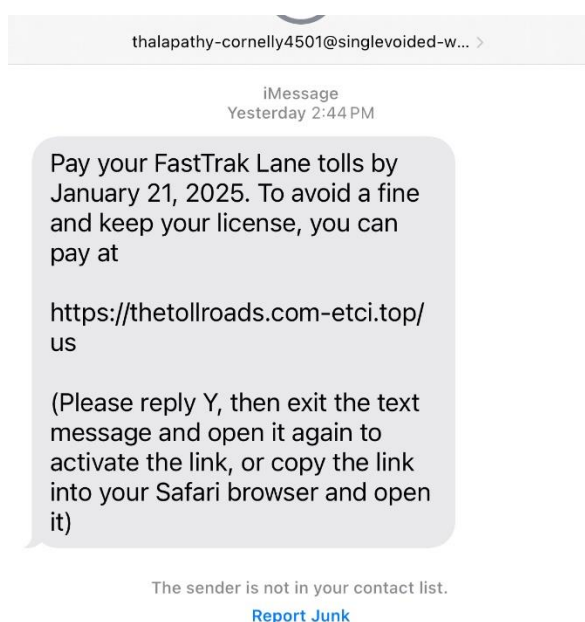


## Toll Texts – Fact or Phishing?

At R Bank, your personal security and peace of mind are our top priorities. This month, we would like to address the increase in phishing text messages being circulated nationwide disguised as Toll bills. Odds are you may have already received one or two of these fraudulent messages.

Over the past few weeks, scammers have been sending fake toll booth bill alerts pretending to be from reputable sources such as FastTrak and EZ Pay. These messages try to scare people with threats of fines and losing their licenses if they don't pay up. Here's an example of one such message aimed at folks here in Texas:



So how can we spot scam text messages and stay clear of them? The first thing to do with these kinds of messages is to avoid clicking on any links or phone numbers they might include. Instead, verify the claim yourself by going directly to the source. For this example, you can call or visit the NTTA website to see if there are any real alerts about overdue toll payments on your account. That way, you're double-checking the claim and verifying if there truly is a bill that needs to be paid.

Additionally, it is crucial to examine the sender's details closely. In this example, the message originates from a lengthy and suspicious-looking email address, which serves as a significant warning sign to avoid interacting with any content they may send.

How can you stop getting these annoying text messages? It's tough to block all phishing texts and calls completely, but reporting any you get can help your phone provider filter them out. This will cut down the number of unwanted texts that slip through.

Another great way to fend off phishing attempts is to turn on any spam filters your phone might have. These filters can catch and block sketchy messages before they even hit your inbox. Plus, keeping your phone's software updated means you get all the latest security features that can stop these scams in their tracks. And if you ever accidentally reply to one of these phishing texts, make sure to change your passwords right away and keep an eye on your accounts for anything unusual.

Want to learn more about Toll Booth Smishing? Check out these articles from the FTC and KrebsOnSecurity for more details:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2025/01/got-text-about-unpaid-tolls-its-probably-scam#:~:text=You%20get%20a%20text%20out,but%20it's%20a%20phishing%20scam.>

<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2025/01/chinese-innovations-spawn-wave-of-toll-phishing-via-sms/>