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New Latar highway cuts travel by 30min

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KUALA LUMPUR: Motorists can enjoy a free drive on the new Kuala Lumpur-Kuala Selangor (Latar) Expressway until Aug 31.

The 33km expressway linking Templer's Park in Selayang, Kuala Lumpur to Ijok in Kuala Selangor, was opened at midnight last night.

Works Minister Datuk Shaziman Abu Mansor, who launched the RM958 million expressway yesterday, said it would cut travelling time from here to Ijok by 30 minutes from the current 90

Present were Works Ministry secretary-general Datuk Thomas George, Malaysia Highway Board (LLM) chairman Datuk Syed Jamal Syed Jaafar, LLM director-general Datuk Ir Ismail Md Salleh, KL-Kuala Selangor Expressway Bhd chairman Datuk Ir Mohamad Razali Othman and Public Work Department director-general Datuk Ir Mohd Noor Yaacob.

The expressway, to be managed by KL-Kuala Selangor Expressway for 40 years, has four interchanges at Ijok, Puncak Alam, Kuang and Templer's Park.

Shaziman said Class 1 vehicles would pay RM2 each at the three toll plazas along the stretch.

Class 2 vehicles have to pay RM4, Class 3 vehicles pay RM6, Class 4 (taxis) RM1 and Class 5 (buses) RM4.

The three toll plazas are Assam Jawa, Kuang Barat and Taman Rimba Templer Park.

The expressway serves several townships such as Kuala Selangor, Assam Jawa, Ijok, Bestari Jaya (Batang Berjuntai), Kota Puteri, Puncak Alam, Shah Alam, Bukit Jelutong, Sungai Buloh, Kundang, Rawang and Selayang.

Shaziman said the Latar Expressway would also be linked to the West Cost Expressway.

"When the West Cost Expressway is completed, users can continue their journey until the Changkat Jering interchange of the North-South Expressway through the west coast of Perak.

"This can be an alternative route for the North-South Expressway, which is becoming congested nowadays. The 286km West Cost Expressway is in the final stage of alignment study and we expect it to be finalised by the end of the year."