



**Pavement works at NLEX underway.** The Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) has embarked on a pavement maintenance program covering some portions of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) designed to further enhance safe and fast travel along the 84-kilometer toll road.

MNTC Senior Vice President Luigi Bautista assured the public that the pavement operations would be completed as soon as possible, adding that any inconvenience to motorists and travelers alike would be temporary, "for which we apologize."

There will be intermittent works in several locations such as the southbound outerlane portion between San Simon Interchange and Candaba viaduct which began last May 12 and will be completed by May 29; the northbound stretch from Bocaue in Bulacan to San Fernando, Pampanga scheduled from June to August this year; bridge approaches in both directions of the same stretch Bocaue to San Fernando which started early this month and to be finished by end of June; northbound pavement portions under the Burol, Tabe II, Duhat, and Marilao Bridges to begin next month.

Also set for pavement maintenance are parts of the northbound segment from Valenzuela to Burol.

Maintenance works are generally carried out in the daytime - from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. A

minimum of two lanes remain open to traffic at all times for the duration of the maintenance from Balintawak to Bocaue, and a minimum of one lane from Bocaue to San Fernando.

MNTC officials noted that despite the maintenance and enhancement works on the tollway, traffic slow down has been effectively minimized with appropriate counterflow arrangements in some areas whenever necessary.

The NLEX, largely regarded as a great improvement over the weather-beaten and severely deteriorated North Luzon Diversion Road, has served as a catalyst for accelerated growth of Central and Northern Luzon regions, stimulating investment flow, trade and commerce.

NLEX also forms part of the Luzon Urban Beltway envisioned by the Arroyo administration as a corridor for rapidly developing industrial and logistics investment centers north of Metro Manila, especially when it finally connects with the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway which is now nearing completion.

Considered the most modern tollway in the country, the NLEX offers the amenities of world-class driving safety and comfort comparable to similar developed countries.