

# Just the Facts: I-405 Express Toll Lanes



## How will the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) set the toll rate range and policies for the I-405 express toll lanes?

The WSTC is legally required to set the toll rate range for the I-405 express toll lanes in an amount that is sufficient to pay for maintenance and operation of the lanes. The WSTC began with recommendations from the I-405/SR 167 Executive Advisory Group in November 2013. Rate setting is also informed by Washington State Department of Transportation analysis and recommendations, as well as public input.

## What will the tolls be used to pay for?

By law, toll revenue can only be used to pay for the cost of I-405 express toll lanes maintenance and operations, as well as future I-405 corridor improvements.

## What is the proposed toll rate range?

The WSTC is proposing a 75 cents minimum and \$10.00 maximum *Good To Go!* toll rate range. It is estimated that 77 percent of the time, drivers will pay less than \$1.00. The typical peak hour toll for someone driving the express toll lanes is likely to be between 75 cents and \$4.00. The toll will change based on real-time traffic conditions and demand for the express toll lanes. As more vehicles enter the express toll lanes, tolls will increase to manage demand so that traffic moves at a minimum of 45 miles per hour.

## What other decisions is the commission considering about the I-405 express toll lanes?

### Exemptions

Some vehicles will be exempt from the toll. By law, transit vehicles, registered vanpools and motorcycles will be exempt from the tolls.

Other proposed exemptions by the commission include:

- Carpools with three or more people at all times, two or more people during off-peak hours
- Emergency vehicles on bona fide emergencies
- Tow trucks and other incident response vehicles, responding to an incident
- WSDOT maintenance vehicles serving the I-405 express toll lanes
- Washington state patrol vehicles serving the I-405 express toll lanes

### Pay By Mail increment

The commission is proposing setting the Pay By Mail increment at \$2.00 above the *Good To Go!* dynamic toll rate. This is necessary to ensure the costs of collecting the toll via mail are covered, as required in law.

## How can the public share their feedback with the WSTC?

There are several ways the public can comment on the Commission's proposal, as outlined below.

### **Public Meetings**

The Commission will hold several public meetings in which people can attend to learn more about the proposal and the I-405 Express Toll Lane project, and can provide comments in person. The dates and locations for these meetings are as follows:

**In Person:** The WSTC will host public meetings on the following dates:

- **6:30 – 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, Bellevue City Hall, 450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Bellevue:** The WSTC will review the details of its rate proposal and approve its release to the public. Public comment will be taken at this meeting. There will be an open house at the same location from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. where people can learn more about the I-405 express toll lanes project.
- **6 – 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, Online virtual public meeting:** A presentation will be made on the rate proposal and project, and then commissioners will answer questions and take comments through a moderated online chat format. Details are provided on the [WSTC website](#) on how to participate in this meeting.
- **6:30 – 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, Kirkland City Hall, 123 Fifth Ave., Kirkland:** Public comment will be taken on the rate proposal, but no action by the commission is planned. There will be an open house at the same location from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. where people can learn more about the I-405 express toll lanes project.
- **6:30 – 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, Kirkland City Hall, 123 Fifth Ave., Kirkland:** The WSTC will take public comment and will be taking action to adopt the final rates and policies. There will be an open house at the same location from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. where people can learn more about the I-405 express toll lanes project.

**Email:** [transc@wstc.wa.gov](mailto:transc@wstc.wa.gov). Please indicate “405 ETL” in the subject line.

**Web Site:** Submit comments utilizing the online comment form on the Commission’s web site, under “contact us”: <http://wstc.wa.gov/ContactUs/feedback.htm>

**Online Discussion Forums:** People can join the [Voice of Washington State \(VOWS\)](#) input program and post ideas and comments utilizing the commission’s online discussion forums. Persons will be able to see all the comments submitted and can vote on them.

**In Writing:**

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