

Tacoma Narrows Bridge photo tolling begins spring 2011



What is photo tolling?

Photo tolling allows us to provide a new payment option, Pay By Mail, for Tacoma Narrows Bridge users.

How does photo tolling work?

A photo is taken of the license plate as the vehicle passes through the electronic toll lanes and a bill is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Will photo tolling affect the cash and *Good To Go!* toll rate?

If you currently cross the Tacoma Narrows Bridge using your *Good To Go!* account, nothing changes. Your toll rate will not change and will be significantly less than the photo toll rate. The cash rate will not change as a result of photo tolling.

What are the benefits of photo tolling?

Photo tolling improves customer service by providing additional payment options. With photo tolling, Tacoma Narrows Bridge drivers without a *Good To Go!* account will have the option to bypass the toll booth and receive a bill in the mail. Currently, vehicle owners crossing the Narrows Bridge using the electronic toll lanes without a transponder receive a \$52 infraction notice.

Photo tolling is part of a uniform statewide system that will reduce expenses by enabling Tacoma Narrows to share the burden of administrative costs with the SR 520 bridge. This will result in an estimated \$1.6 to \$2.2 million annual savings in operations costs for the Narrows Bridge.

How is photo tolling different from the current system?

Currently, there are two options to pay Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolls: cash at the toll booth or electronically with a *Good To Go!* pass. Drivers who cross the bridge without using either of these options are immediately sent into the infraction process managed by Pierce County Courts. Only \$12 of the \$52 infraction reaches the Narrows Bridge account, with Pierce County Courts keeping the remaining \$40.

Under the new system, photo toll customers will receive a bill in the mail instead of receiving an infraction. If they do not pay within 80 days, they'll receive a notice of civil penalty and be charged \$40 in addition to all outstanding toll and fees. This process will be handled by WSDOT and all money collected will go into the Tacoma Narrows Bridge account.

How much does photo tolling cost?

The Washington State Transportation Commission is the toll setting authority for the state of Washington. On Dec. 15 the commission proposed a photo toll rate of \$5.50 at its monthly meeting in Olympia for public review and comment. The commission will hold a meeting on Jan. 19, 2011, to collect public input on its proposal and will hold a final hearing on Jan. 26, 2011, to finalize the Pay By Mail rate. For more information visit www.wstc.wa.gov.

When does photo tolling begin?

Photo tolling begins in spring 2011 when the new toll collection system is certified as fully operational.



For more information

Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/tolling

Project contact:

Patricia Michaud,
Project Communications Manager
michaup@wsdot.wa.gov
206-716-1133