

KEY FACTS ON SR 520 BRIDGE TOLLS

- The SR 520 bridge is being built with state gas tax dollars and revenues collected from tolls and the sale of 30-year bonds which the state is on the hook to repay according to a strict plan that does not allow for last minute changes that directly reduce anticipated revenues.
- The bonds sold to fund the project will be paid from the toll revenue generated and are expected to be paid off in FY 2054.
- The financial plan set forth calls for 2.5% toll rate increases each fiscal year through FY 2017 at which point there is a planned increase of 15%. **Thereafter, the toll rates are not expected to increase, as long as we stick to the plan.**
- In order to fully fund the construction of the new bridge and to be able to repay our debt, we must adhere to the financial plan that sets the course for all toll rate changes – including reductions in the toll rates on specified holiday's: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas day.
- To divert from this plan would be detrimental to the state's financial standing and the financing of the new SR 520 Bridge.
- To provide a week long exemption from paying tolls on the SR 520 Bridge during the I-90 construction project would result in a loss of revenue estimated to be approximately \$1.3 million. This loss in revenue is not currently anticipated or planned for, and thus would impact our plan for future toll rate increases.
- **Tolling is a zero sum game – for every free ride given means the lost revenue will have to be made up at a later date by drivers using the SR 520 Bridge.** So essentially the regular, day to day users of SR 520 will end up subsidizing the "free pass" I-90 users are seeking, due to the traffic impacts of next week's construction project. Given there are other free alternative routes available, this approach does not seem reasonable nor prudent.
- The Commission has a financial obligation to ensure the funding for the bridge is sufficient and secure, in addition to considering the impacts to toll rate payers and to traffic flows on the bridge.
- Given there will likely be many new drivers on the SR 520 Bridge during the I-90 project, here is some information on ways you can pay SR520 tolls, if you are not a current Good to Go! account holder, and do not want to take the free alternative routes.
There are four ways to pay a toll on SR 520:
 - 1) Set up a GoodToGo! Account – provides the lowest toll rates
 - 2) You can set up a Pay By Plate Account
 - 3) You can cross the bridge and await a bill in the mail
 - 4) Set up a Short Term Account

For more information on toll payment options, please visit the WSDOT web site:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/520/default.htm>