Tolling 101 in Washington State
Overview of the Washington State Transportation Commission

An independent, seven-member body of citizens appointed by the Governor for staggered six-year terms – three from east of the mountains and four from the West. The WSDOT Secretary and the Governor’s Office serve as *ex officio*.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

• Proposes transportation policy and finance recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

• **As the State Tolling Authority, adopts all state highway and bridge tolls and sets fares for Washington State Ferries.**

• A public forum for transportation policy development.

• Develops and issues a comprehensive and balanced 20-year statewide transportation plan.

• Conducts a statewide outreach program, including on-line surveys and polls, to gather public input into state transportation policy, to promote transportation education, and to understand local and regional transportation needs and challenges.
### Toll Program is Shared
The Legislature, Commission, WSDOT, and the Treasurer Each Play a Role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toll Authority Under Current Legislation</th>
<th>Washington State Legislature</th>
<th>Transportation Commission</th>
<th>Department of Transportation</th>
<th>Office of the State Treasurer (OST)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish tolling, designate toll corridors and use of toll revenues</td>
<td>Set toll rates and related fees</td>
<td>Collect tolls, build and operate toll collection systems</td>
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#### Roles
- Establish legal toll framework
- Authorize tolling in designated corridors
- Approve financing plans
- Enable tolling practices
- Appropriate toll operation budget
- Set toll rates within funding requirements
- Set toll discounts
- Establish advisory committees
- Develop toll collection systems and procedures
- Collect tolls
- Finance improvements
- Operate tolled corridors
- Assess financial feasibility of toll projects
- Conducts all financing for the State of Washington
- Responsible for the issuance of toll backed debt
Tolling to Fund a Project

Tacoma Narrows Bridge

- Project Cost: Tolls are paying for the new $735 million bridge; gas tax pays for another $583 million in SR-16 corridor improvements.

- Toll revenue makes bond payments and finances maintenance and operations.

- Toll Rates for 2-axle vehicles (flat rates, no time of day, or day of week pricing):
  
  - Good to Go: $4.50
  - Toll Booth: $5.50
  - Pay By Mail: $6.50

- Transit is not exempt.
**Tolling to Manage Traffic**

**SR 167 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Pilot Project**

- Rates range from .50 cents - $9.00
- Average toll: Less than $1.00
- High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes use dynamic pricing to ensure speeds stay at 45 MPH or better. This performance standard is set in state and federal law.
- Rates vary based upon the speed in the HOT lane. If speeds start dropping, the toll rate goes up; if speeds start increasing, the toll rate goes down.
- Speeds have increased by 11% in GP lanes.
- HOVs & transit are free.
**SR 520 Bridge Replacement / HOV Project**

- New floating bridge being constructed.
- Extends HOV lanes from I-5 to SR 202.
- Total Project Cost: $4.65 billion, of which $1.2 billion is raised from tolling.
- Tolls vary by time of day and day of week.
  - Weekday Peak Toll: $3.70 Good to Go
  - No tolls 11:00 pm – 5:00 am
  - Exemptions: registered vanpools and transit
Tolling to Manage Traffic & Raise Revenue For Future 405 Corridor Projects

**I-405 Express Toll Lanes**
*Anticipated to begin in Fall of 2015*

- Use dynamic pricing to ensure speeds stay at 45 MPH or better. This performance standard is set in state and federal law.
- Rates vary based upon the speed in the Express Toll Lanes. If speeds start dropping, the toll rate goes up; if speeds start increasing, the toll rate goes down.

**Commission Toll Rate Proposal**
Rate Range: $0.75 - $10.00
Pay By Mail Fee: $ 2.00

**Exemptions:** Transit, Vanpools, HOV’s, motorcycles, 16-passenger buses, in-service emergency vehicles, maintenance, enforcement, and incident management vehicles, including private tow-trucks when directed by WSP.

**Carpool Policy**
- 3+ carpools exempt at all times
- 2+ carpools exempt except 5-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. on weekdays
Additional Authorized Tolled Facilities:

- SR 99 Downtown Bored Tunnel

Facilities that have been studied, or are being studied for tolling feasibility:

- SR 509 Extension to I-5
- SR 167 Extension to Port of Tacoma
- I-90 from I-5 to I-405
Questions?

Contact the Washington State Transportation Commission Offices

Phone:
360-705-7070

Or email:
transc@wstc.wa.gov