

Toll Exemptions

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May 19, 2010



Washington State
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Current Toll Exemptions

Tacoma Narrows Bridge & SR 167 HOT Lanes

- TNB (WAC 468-270-090)
 - Bridge maintenance vehicles
 - WSP on SR 16
 - Emergency vehicles on an emergency call

- SR 167 (RCW 47.56.403/WAC 468-300-828/WAC 468-510-010)
 - Transit buses
 - Agency owned or operated vanpools
 - HOV 2+ vehicles



Urban Partnership Agreement

September 30, 2009



- Original Term sheet requires that the following exemptions be implemented:
 - “provide discounted or free access for vehicles with 3+ occupants”
 - “exempt privately operated over-the-road buses from tolls to the same extent it exempts public transportation from tolls”
 - “shall not assess congestion charges against any vehicles owned or operated by any foreign government or international organization or its representatives, officers, or employees if notified by U.S. Department of State that, pursuant to U.S. international legal obligations, the vehicles are exempt from such charge”.



WSDOT Request

- During the development of the UPA Project, WSDOT found multiple challenges in implementing the HOV 3+ requirement. Challenges included:
 - Safety concerns
 - Enforcement difficulties
 - Operational implications
- Previous financial analysis assumed only transit buses would be free.
- WSDOT requested to be released from the requirement of discounted or free access to vehicles with more than 3 occupants, but offered to allow transit buses and agency owned vanpools to go toll free.
- FHWA responded accepting the release on the HOV 3+ exemption but requested that “free access for transit and transit agency sanctioned vanpools to cross the existing SR 520 bridge”.
 - Also hoped that WSDOT will consider implementing HOV 3+ discount concept on the new SR 520 bridge.

WSDOT Recommendations

Transit Buses and Vanpools

- Allow transit buses to go free
 - Require these vehicles to have a *Good To Go!* account and use transponders to minimize operational costs.
- Allow agency sanctioned vanpools by referring to existing RCW 82.12.028 that exempt rideshare vehicles from excise taxes.
 - Reference RCW 46.16.023 which requires these vehicles to be certified by DOL on an annual basis.
 - Require these vehicles to have a *Good To Go!* account and use transponders to minimize operational costs.



WSDOT Recommendations

Privately operated over-the-road buses

- Treat privately operated over-the road buses the same as transit buses if they can demonstrate the following:
 - The bus operates on a fixed schedule and fixed route.
 - The bus is branded on the outside.
 - The bus must have a carrying capacity of sixteen or more person, including the operator (reference HOV WAC 468-510-010(2))
 - Require certification annually with WSDOT.
 - Require these vehicles to have a *Good To Go!* account and use transponders to minimize operational costs.

WSDOT Recommendations

Foreign government or International organization

- Allow foreign government and international organization vehicle toll free
 - Tolls will not be enforced if notified by US Department of State the status of the vehicle.

Revenue Implication

If applied to SR 520 and Tacoma Narrows Bridge

- SR 520 during the first year of tolling:
 - Transit buses approximately \$1.1M
 - Vanpools approximately \$0.1M

- TNB for the previous fiscal year ('09)
 - Transit buses \$ 101,219.50
 - Vanpools \$65,360.00

Questions?

For more information on Toll Exemptions, please contact:
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