

SR 520 Toll Rate Proposal – Just the Facts

January 2011

All-electronic tolling begins in spring 2011 on the SR 520 bridge

When tolling begins on the State Route 520 bridge in spring 2011, there will be no tollbooths and no stopping or slowing to pay tolls. As you pass through the tolling area at highway speeds, the system automatically detects your *Good To Go!* Pass or license plate and deducts the toll from your account, or mails a bill to the registered owner of the vehicle. Toll rates will vary by time of day, encouraging off-peak travel and improving traffic flow during the busiest times. Tolling revenue will help fund a new SR 520 bridge that is safer and more reliable when opened in 2014.

Proposed Toll Rates

The Washington State Transportation Commission released its proposal for SR 520 tolls in November. The commission will hold a public hearing in Seattle on Jan. 5, 2011, to finalize toll rate recommendations. The following toll rates apply to two-axle passenger vehicles using the *Good To Go!* Pass. Detailed toll rates for larger multi-axle vehicles, and other payment options, including Pay By Mail, are available at www.wstc.wa.gov.

- Peak period weekday rates – \$3.50 each way (7 a.m. - 9 a.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)
- Off-peak rates (including weekends) range from \$0 - \$2.80
- It is free to cross the bridge from 11 p.m. - 5 a.m.

Proposed toll rates are designed to:

- Maintain travel time, speed and reliability
- Generate some of the revenue necessary to cover operation and maintenance costs, and debt repayment related to the SR 520 bridge
- Increase 2.5 percent annually through 2016, to keep pace with cost increases – subject to commission review and possible adjustments up or down

Proposed Toll Exemptions – vehicles that do not pay tolls

- Public and private transit buses
- Registered ride sharing vans
- Emergency response vehicles that are responding to bona-fide emergencies
- Washington State Department of Transportation maintenance vehicles directly involved with SR 520 bridge maintenance
- Washington State Patrol vehicles providing enforcement services on the SR 520 corridor
- Vehicles owned by foreign governments and international organizations (per requirements under federal law)

Proposed Administrative Fees – covers costs only

In addition to proposing toll rates, the commission is proposing the following statewide fees to cover administrative costs associated with processing tolling transactions.

- Paper statement and reprinting fees – \$0.50 per page (\$1.50 minimum charge)
- Inactive account fee – \$5
- Reprocessing fee – \$5 per reminder notice to pay unpaid tolls
- Pay By Plate fee – \$0.25 per transaction
- Customer-initiated payment – \$0.50 per transaction credit off of the Pay By Mail toll rate

I-1053 implications

In November, Washington State voters passed Initiative 1053, requiring a majority of the state Legislature to approve fee increases (which includes tolls). The commission and WSDOT will work with the Governor's office and the Legislature to determine appropriate next steps to ensure toll rates are adopted for SR 520 and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

For more information on SR 520 Rate Setting

www.wstc.wa.gov

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To learn more about how tolling on SR 520 will work

www.goodtogo520.com

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