Toll Rate Setting Introduction

WSTC Commission Meeting
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Intent / Objectives

• Prepare Commission for Expected Rate-Settings
  – SR 520 bridge, SR 99 tunnel, SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge
  – No decisions by the Commission are planned today

• Identifying the problem
  – Update on facility financials

• Informing a solution
  – Review of steps taken to date to meet financial requirements
  – Summary of potential rate-setting approaches for FY 2022

• Expected Rate-Setting Process & Timeline
Guiding Principles for Toll Rate Setting

State law (RCW 47.56.830) requires the following considerations in setting toll rates:

• Fairness and equity in the context of the statewide transportation system;
• Avoiding increased traffic diversion to other routes;
• Social equity, environmental, and economic issues; and
• Supporting progress towards the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.
Toll Rate Setting Requirements: 
SR 99 Tunnel & SR 520 Bridge

State law (RCW 47.56.850, RCW 47.56.862 & RCW 47.56.870) requires the following:

• Shall set variable schedule of toll rates with intent to:
  – Maintain travel time, speed, and reliability on the facility
  – Generate the necessary revenue to meet funding obligations

• Tolls may vary by multiple factors in support of improved system performance, including:
  – Type of vehicle, time of day, traffic conditions, or other factors
  – System performance includes managing congestion on the facility and minimizing impacts to alternative routes
Toll Rate Setting Requirements: SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge

State law (RCW 47.46.100 & 47.56.240) requires the following:

• In establishing toll charges generate revenue necessary to address:
  – Costs of operating and maintaining the bridge
  – Annual debt service costs