



Washington State Transportation Commission

Tolling Work Session Summary

April 20, 2021

Day 1: April 20, 2021

Chair Jerry Litt opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with introductions by commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 2:

I-405 / SR 167 Express Toll Lane Low-Income Tolling Study

Gabor Debreczeni, Economic Analysis and Forecasting Manager, WSP USA

Auden Kaehler, Assistant Vice President, WSP USA

Mr. Debreczeni and Mr. Kaehler gave an overview and update on the study of possible low-income tolling program options for the I-405/SR 167 Express Toll Lanes (ETL) corridor. There are two options being explored: a fixed toll credit and a fixed number of free toll trips. At the May Commission meeting, the project team will present final results of their analysis and modeling and will discuss what recommendations should move forward in the final report to the Legislature. At the June Commission meeting, the project team will present the final report with a planned submittal to the Legislature by June 30, 2021, per the required due date.

Presentation:

[I-405/SR 167 Express Toll Lane Low-Income Tolling Study](#)

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:03:51, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 3:
I-405 / SR 167 Low-Income Driver Survey
Chelsea Benning, Director, Design and Analysis, Pacific Market Research

Ms. Benning gave an overview on a recent survey seeking to get input from low-income drivers who use the I-405 and SR 167 Express Toll Lanes, to gather input on how they use the corridor and their preferences for possible toll discounts.

Presentation:
[VOWS ETL Low-Income Driver Survey](#)

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:53:40, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4:
Update: Toll Facility Traffic & Revenue Report
Ed Barry, Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation

Mr. Barry briefed the Commission on the latest traffic and revenue performance for Washington State's tolled facilities from January through March 2021.

Toll revenues for November 2020 through February 2021 were below the November 2020 state revenue forecasts by 4% or \$1.6 million. Toll revenues were below Pre-COVID (November 2019) forecasts by 43% or \$108.4 million.

Trips are down on all tolled facilities. Traffic on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge continues to be impacted the least and is recovering the fastest, compared to other facilities.

Presentation:
[Toll Facilities - Traffic Revenue Update - March 2021](#)

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:02:29, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 5:

Update: State Transportation Revenue Forecast

Doug Vaughn, Chief Finance Officer, Washington State Department of Transportation

Ed Barry, Director, Toll Division, Washington State Department of Transportation

Ray Deardorf, Senior Planning Manager, Washington State Ferries

The panel gave an overview of the March Revenue Forecast including specific forecast results for tolled facilities and ferries.

Presentation:

[State Transportation Revenue Forecast - Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 5, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 01:15:00, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 6:

SR 520 Bridge Toll Rate Setting Preparations

Brent Baker, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, WSP USA

Mr. Baker gave an update on financial requirements for the SR 520 bridge. Given current revenue projections and absent revenue subsidies, a toll rate increase in FY 2022 is required to meet financial and legal obligations for the SR 520 bridge. To meet FY 2022 obligations, current toll rates may need to increase an estimated 25% to 35%. The Commission's Tolling Subcommittee has identified two general approaches to rate setting which are compliant with and support statutory requirements. If new toll rates are to be effective by July 1, 2021, absent funding being provided by the Legislature to relieve current financial pressures and shortfalls, the Commission would have to file an emergency rule. This would be followed by a permanent rulemaking process that would include gathering public input. Final decisions on approach and process are pending the Legislature passing a final transportation budget for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Presentation:

[SR 520 Bridge Toll Rate Setting Update](#)

For more detail on agenda item 6, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 02:04:09, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Chair Jerry Litt reminded the Commission that the Lakewood meeting will be at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, and adjourned the meeting.