

2018 Commission Tolling Action

The Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission), as the State Tolling Authority, sets toll rates and polices for all tolled facilities statewide, including: the SR 520 Floating Bridge, the SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB), the I-405 Express Toll Lanes (ETLs), and the SR 167 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes.



Tolling Gantry

Total toll revenue for all four tolled facilities is projected to generate over \$402 million during the current biennium (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019). All of this revenue is dedicated in law to support the toll facility from which it was collected.

Whenever called upon to set or revise toll rates, the Commission carefully reviews traffic and revenue projections, listens to affected members of impacted communities, and seeks to ensure customers are treated fairly.

2018 Tolling Activity Highlights

In 2018, the Commission anticipates adopting initial toll rates for the SR 99 tunnel facility, with tolling beginning in 2019. The Commission also anticipates a rule-making process for consideration of establishing system-wide toll exemption policies. In addition, there will be a review of revenues, traffic volumes, and overall financial performance for the State's other tolled facilities, and continued participation in planning for future toll facilities. Finally, the Commission will consider a change to their Tacoma Narrows Bridge Sufficient Minimum Balance (SMB) policy.

SR 99 Tunnel Facility

In the first half of 2019, tolling will begin on the SR 99 Tunnel facility. This will follow the opening of the facility in late 2018.

Toll revenues are expected to contribute \$200 million towards construction of the SR 99 Tunnel / Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project. Toll revenues are also expected to fully fund the facility's toll collection costs, and operations and maintenance for the facility. Rates will vary by day of week and time of day (variable tolling) to maximize revenue and vehicle throughput, and to minimize diversion to other routes.

In 2017, the Commission began assessing traffic and revenue projections and data, and in partnership with the WSDOT, engaging with local jurisdictions for the SR 99 tunnel facility. The formal toll rate setting process is planned to occur approximately from July – September 2018. Prior to July, analysis of advanced traffic and revenue data and various toll rate scenarios will be undertaken. In the Spring of 2018, the WSTC will seek input from local stakeholders and the general public before it releases its official toll rate and policy proposal in July.



SR 99 Tunnel South Portal – January 2018

System-Wide Toll Rate Exemptions Proposal

This spring 2018, the Commission will be initiating a rule-making process for implementing system-wide toll rate exemptions. Currently, toll rate exemptions are set independently for each facility. Changes under consideration would be aimed at bringing consistency across facilities as much as possible to streamline operations, and to make rules between the tolled facilities consistent.

The revenue impacts of potential changes would likely be primarily limited to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB) because of how current TNB exemptions differ from other facilities. The largest impact for the TNB would be for authorizing a transit exemption with an estimated annual impact of between \$150,000 - \$200,000. This would equate to about 0.2% of annual TNB toll revenue, or about \$0.01 per transaction.

Summary of Current Toll Rates and Revenues by Facility

Toll Rate Policies by Facility (FY 2018)

Toll Facility	Rate Structure	Hrs. of Operation	HOV Policy
SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge	Single Flat Rate	24 hrs., 7 days/wk.	2+ HOV lane w/toll
SR 520 Floating Bridge	Variable Rates by Time of Day & Weekends	24 hrs., 7 days/wk.	3+ HOV lane w/toll
I-405 Express Toll Lanes	Dynamic Pricing Based on Speeds & Volumes	5am - 7pm, weekdays	3+ HOVs always exempt from tolls; 2+ HOVs exempt 9am-3pm*
SR 167 High Occupancy Toll Lanes	Dynamic Pricing Based on Speeds & Volumes	5am - 7pm, 7 days/wk.	2+ HOVs exempt from tolls

*Requires use of Good To Go! Flex Pass transponder

Toll Rates by Facility (FY 2018)

Toll Facility	Good To Go!*	Pay by Mail	Other
SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$6.00 (Toll Booth)
SR 520 Floating Bridge			
Weekdays	\$1.25 - \$4.30	\$3.25 - \$6.30	None
Weekends & Holidays	\$1.25 - \$2.65	\$3.25 - \$4.65	None
I-405 Express Toll Lanes	\$0.75 - \$10.00	\$2.75 - \$12.00	None
SR 167 High Occupancy Toll Lanes	\$0.50 - \$9.00	n/a	None

Note: All rates are for 2 axle vehicles. Rates increase per additional axle.

*\$0.25 fee added to Good To Go! rates if transponder not detected

Toll Rate Traffic & Revenue by Facility (FY 2017)

Toll Facility	Traffic	Toll Revenue*
SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge	15.0 million	\$ 79.4 million
SR 520 Floating Bridge	24.0 million	\$ 75.0 million
I-405 Express Toll Lanes	9.6 million	\$ 20.9 million
SR 167 High Occupancy Toll Lanes	1.5 million	\$ 2.7 million
Total	50.1 million	\$ 178.0 million

Source: TRFC, November 2017 *Adjusted Gross Toll Revenue