



Washington State Transportation Commission

Public Hearing Summary *Tacoma Narrows Bridge Toll Rate Reduction* August 23, 2022

Day 1: August 23, 2022

Chair Roy Jennings opened the hearing at 10:00 am with introductions by commission members and staff, an overview of the agenda, and virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item 2:

Overview of Toll Rate Adjustment Proposal

Presenters:

- Carl See, Deputy Director, Washington State Transportation Commission
- Aaron Halbert, Financial Analyst, Washington State Transportation Commission

Mr. See and Mr. Halbert provided an overview of the Commission's toll rate adjustment proposal for Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB).

During the 2022 Washington State Legislative session, the Legislature committed \$130 million in transfers from the General Fund to TNB Account over 10 years (FY 2023 - 2032) with the intent for the Commission to adjust toll rates on the TNB. In May 2022, the Commission selected three rate reduction options to advance for purposes of public input, with a targeted effective date of October 1, 2022. The three rate reduction options are as follows:

- Option 1: Flat 75 cents toll rate reduction for only two-axle vehicles
- Option 2: Flat 75 cents toll rate reduction for all vehicles
- Option 3: Flat 75 cents toll rate reduction for two-axle vehicles, with a per axle multiplier applied for vehicles with 3+ axles

At the July 2022 Commission meeting, the Commission advanced Option 3 as their formal toll rate proposal.

Following this decision, five additional comments were submitted via email, most of which supported the toll rate reduction. In addition, the Commission held an Online Public Input Forum which was open from June 13, 2022, through June 30, 2022. During this time, the Commission received over 13,000 completed survey responses and over 7,300 open-ended comments. In addition, the Commission received over 485 additional comments outside of the input forum ahead of the July 2022 Commission meeting.

Presentation:

[Tacoma Narrows Bridge Toll Rate Adjustment](#)

For more detail on agenda item 2, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:06:10, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action: None.

Follow-Up: None at this time.

**Agenda Item 3:
Public Comment**

Chair Jennings called on members of the public to provide testimony. Summaries of public comments are as follows:

Mr. Randy Boss (Gig Harbor) testified against the Commission’s toll rate adjustment proposal for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Mr. Boss referenced language from RCW 47.46.090, stating that the Commission did not provide the TNB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) adequate time to review the toll rate adjustment proposal and report their recommendations. Mr. Boss also referenced language under SSB 5488, stating that the bill only requires that the \$130 million be transferred from the General Fund to the TNB Account. Mr. Boss stated that the \$130 million should be used to pay off the loans.

Chair Jennings responded, stating that a letter was sent by Governor Inslee in January 2022 which removed the two remaining members from the CAC. As such, there is no TNB CAC at this time. Chair Jennings also referenced language under section 2 of SSB 5488 which states that it’s the intent of the Legislature that the Commission will adjust tolls accordingly in consideration of annual contributions from non-toll sources.

For more detail on agenda item 3, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:25:11, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

Action: None

Follow-Up: None at this time.

Agenda Item 4:
Commission Discussion & Vote - *ACTION*

Commissioners discussed the toll rate adjustment proposal. Commissioners voiced their support for the toll rate adjustment proposal due to the fact that it provides an equal benefit for all bridge users, including freight traveling in the corridor, it provides the greatest immediate benefit, and it's consistent with how toll rates are set on other facilities.

Presentation: There was no associated presentation.

For more detail on agenda item 4, please refer to the [TVW Meeting Recording](#), starting at 00:34:09, on the progress bar found at the bottom of the screen.

Action:

Commissioner Litt moved to adopt the toll rate reduction Option 3 (flat 75 cents toll rate reduction for two-axle vehicles, with a per axle multiplier applied for vehicles with 3+ axles, effective October 1, 2022) and that it be filed as the CR-103.

Vice-Chair Young seconded the motion.

The motion was approved, 4-0 (1 absent, 2 excused).

Follow-Up: WSTC to file the CR-103 documents with final rate changes by August 30, 2022.

Next meeting: September 13 & 14, 2022