



Toll Bridge Exemptions



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New Law Requires Removal of Transit Toll Exemptions on Bridges

Legislation enacted by the 2025 Legislature directs the WSTC to remove tolling exemptions for publicly and privately operated transit buses, vans, and ride share vehicles on tolled bridges by **October 1, 2025**.

[SB 5801](#) states the following:

“However, except for publicly or privately owned or operated school buses, the commission may not exempt publicly or privately owned or operated transit buses, vans, and ride share vehicles from tolls on bridges, and must modify tolling provisions accordingly by October 1, 2025.”

Current tolled bridges:

- SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB)
- SR 520 Floating Bridge

Current Toll Exemptions by Facility

Toll Facility	Carpools	Motorcycles	Transit/ Rideshare	Private Buses/ School Buses	Emergency/ Incident Response/ O&M Vehicles	Tow Trucks (WSP Authorized)
SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge	No		At all times		On-Duty	In-Service
SR 520 Floating Bridge						
SR 99 Tunnel						
I-405 Express Toll Lanes	3+ peak/ 2+ off peak	At all times				
SR 167 HOT Lanes	2+					

On-Duty = Vehicle operating in an official capacity

In-Service = On-duty and responding to an incident. Includes private tow trucks directed by Washington State Patrol (WSP) to clear vehicles from SR 520 bridge

Current Toll Exemption Language in Administrative Rule

WAC 468-270-085 establishes the following vehicles shall qualify for an exemption:

- (1) Highway and transit operating and maintenance vehicles, as authorized by the department;
- (2) Tow trucks authorized by the Washington state patrol responding to clear vehicles from the toll facility;
- (3) Authorized, on-duty emergency vehicles;
- (4) Publicly owned or operated transit buses;**
- (5) Passenger motor vehicles licensed for ride-sharing as defined in RCW 46.18.285;**
- (6) School buses; and
- (7) Privately owned and operated passenger buses meeting annual certification requirements of the department.**

Note: To implement the law, (4), (5), and (7) will no longer apply to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and SR 520 Bridge.

Because clear and explicit direction was given to the WSTC in law, changes to the administrative rule to implement the law will be made using an expedited (CR-105) rule making process.

Proposed New Toll Exemption Language

- 1) Except as provided herein, all vehicles using a toll facility must pay the required toll. Vehicles crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge are required to pay a toll only in the eastbound direction. Additional exemptions for high occupancy vehicles apply on the SR 167 HOT lanes and I-405 express toll lanes as defined in WAC 468-270-105 and 468-270-115 respectively.
- 2) Only qualified vehicles may be exempted from paying tolls. Exempted vehicles must provide directly for the operation, maintenance, and/or person-carrying capacity of the tolled roadway or for emergency response. The registered owner and operator of the qualified vehicle must comply with the requirements of the department to obtain the exemption as specified in WAC 468-270-095.
- 3) The following vehicles, as defined further in WAC 468-270-030, shall qualify for exemption **on the I-405 and SR 167 express toll lanes, the SR 99 Tunnel, and the Puget Sound Gateway facility (SR 509 Expressway and SR 167 Expressway):**
 - (a) Highway and transit operating and maintenance vehicles, as authorized by the department;
 - (b) Tow trucks authorized by the Washington state patrol responding to clear vehicles from the toll facility;
 - (c) Authorized, on-duty emergency vehicles;
 - (d) Publicly owned or operated transit buses;
 - (e) Passenger motor vehicles licensed for ride-sharing as defined in RCW 46.18.285;
 - (f) School buses; and
 - (g) Privately owned and operated passenger buses meeting annual certification requirements of the department.
- 4) **The following vehicles, as defined further in WAC 468-270-030, shall qualify for exemption on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and SR 520 Bridge:**
 - (a) Highway and transit operating and maintenance vehicles, as authorized by the department;
 - (b) Tow trucks authorized by the Washington state patrol responding to clear vehicles from the toll facility;
 - (c) Authorized, on-duty emergency vehicles; and
 - (d) School buses.

Possible Rule Making Timeline

Task	Date(s)
Approve expedited proposal	Today, June 17
File CR-105	By June 18
CR-105 published in Washington State Registry	July 15
File CR-103P	By August 29
Tolling exemptions changes take effect	October 1, 2025

Questions / Contact

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