

Good To Go!
Low Income Discount Program

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WSTC adopted Scenario A toll policies from the Level 3 Toll Traffic and Revenue Study

Scenario	Toll Escalation	Truck Tolls	SR 509 Low Income Discount
A	2.15% escalation every year, starting in FY 2031	Vehicles with 3+ axles pay a multiple of the base toll	None
B		All vehicles pay the same toll	
C		Vehicles with 3+ axles pay a multiple of the base toll	50% discount for SR 509 area residents at 0-200% of FPL
D		All vehicles pay the same toll	

Level 3 T&R Study Timing Assumptions

- **SR 509:** Stage 1 tolling started 10/1/2025, with Stage 2 corridor completion by fall 2028
- **SR 167:** Stage 1 tolling west of I-5 starts fall/winter 2026 and Stage 2 tolling east of I-5 starts fall 2029

Legislative direction on statewide low-income toll relief program

ESSB 5161, Section 205 (2025):

(5) The commission shall partner with the department of transportation to design and implement a toll relief program based upon income qualification. Implementation must start with facilities where tolling begins in fiscal year 2026 or later. The commission shall work with the department of transportation to assess potential impacts of extending the toll relief program based upon income qualification to existing tolled facilities that opened prior to fiscal year 2026. The assessment, at a minimum, must determine potential impacts to meeting current financial and legal requirements in place for each facility. The commission, in partnership with the department of transportation, shall provide annual updates on the program to the transportation committees of the legislature.

Prior WSDOT / WSTC low-income analyses

- Low-Income Toll Program Study for I-405 & SR 167 Express Toll Lanes (2021)
 - WSTC study looked at 5 options including a toll discount (50% preferred)
 - 2 options recommended: fixed monthly toll credit or fixed number of free trips / month
- Puget Sound Gateway Program Level 3 T&R Study (2024)
 - 50% discount on SR 509 only for low-income residents adjacent to the corridor
 - Income eligibility: household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
 - Residential eligibility: reside in a zip-code with a boundary within one mile of the SR 509 project area
 - *Good To Go!* account required

Other regional discount programs

- In the Central Puget Sound region, low-income benefit programs for transit riders offer a 50% discount on fares
 - Income eligibility: household income at or below 200% of the FPL
 - ORCA card (regional fare media account) required
- Although Washington State Ferries does not offer a low-income benefit, it does offer senior and disabled discounts of 50% off the passenger portion of the applicable fare

Other low-income discounts studies

- 2025 I-5 Interstate Bridge Level 3 T&R Study
 - All toll scenarios assume a 50% low-income discount
 - Customer's household income must be at or below 200% of the FPL
 - *Good To Go!* account required
- ODOT's Toll Program
 - Before it was tabled in early 2024, the program extensively studied potential Low-Income Toll Program (LITP) options
 - Recommended a 50% discount for customers whose households are at or below 200% of the FPL as a balance between providing relief and operational effectiveness.

Preliminary Low-Income Program Overview

The Legislature has directed establishment of a low-income discount toll program for *Good to Go!*

- **Initial Phase:** Program will start with the SR 167 and SR 509 expressways.
- **Timeline:** Begin program enrollment in September 2026 to prepare for launch in December 2026.
- **Program Structure Working Assumptions:**
 - Household income must be at or below 200% the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
 - Toll rates will be 50% applied to the *Good To Go!* pass toll rate
 - WSDOT is also considering the feasibility of providing a free *Good To Go!* pass

Questions?

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