Good To Go!
Low Income Discount Program

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Legislative direction on statewide low-income toll relief program

ESSB 5161 (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.

Gateway Program rate-setting

- In spring 2025, the WSTC provided the opportunities for the public to learn about the tolling options under consideration and to provide comments through an online open house, two virtual public meetings and emails through the WSTC website and public inbox.
- The Commission adopted the toll rates and policies in June 2025.
- Toll rates and policies took effect in fall of 2025.

Toll Rates	Toll Escalation	Truck Tolls	Low Income Discount
SR 509 – $1.20 to $2.40 SR 167 – East of I-5: $1.20 to $3.00 SR 167 – West of I-5: $1 *Toll rates vary by time of day on SR 509 and SR 167 East of I-5*	2.15% escalation every year, starting in Fiscal Year 2031	Vehicles with 3+ axles pay a multiple of the base toll	Intent for system-wide low-income program with discounted toll rates for SR 167 and SR 509 expressways by start of tolling on SR167 Expressway.

Planning Work To-Date

- Meetings with Department of Social and Health Services and King County Metro
- Researched other tolling agencies low-income programs
- Researched low-income programs offered within WA

➢ Based on this research, developed low-income program operational recommendations focused on the following areas:
  - General Program Parameters
  - Customer Eligibility and Verification

Proposed Program Overview

The Legislature has directed establishment of a low-income discount toll program.

- **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:**
  - Household income no more than 200% the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
  - Customer must have *Good To Go!* account and pass
  - Toll rates will be 50% applied to the *Good To Go!* pass toll rate for two-axle vehicles
- **Future Phases:** The WSTC will evaluate expansion to other toll facilities as part of future toll rate setting processes.

Federal Poverty Level

200% of Federal Poverty Level

Family Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	$2,660	$31,920
2	$3,607	$43,280
3	$4,553	$54,640
4	$5,500	$66,000
5	$6,447	$77,360
6	$7,393	$88,720
7	$8,340	$100,080
8	$9,287	$111,440

Eligibility Determination

WSDOT will rely on documentation provided by the customer from other agencies which have already verified their household income is no more than 200% of the FPL.

Examples of these programs include those administered by:

- The Department of Social and Health Services,
- The Washington State Health Care Authority,
- The Washington State Department of Health,
- The Social Security Administration, and
- The King County Orca Lift Program

Process for Customer

Customer will need to submit two pieces of documentation 1) proof of enrollment in qualifying program and 2) vehicle registration. Customer can submit these online or by mail.

The CSC will approve enrollment if:

- ✓ The proof of eligibility is an approved piece of documentation.
- ✓ Name on proof of enrollment matches vehicle registration.
- ✓ Vehicle is registered in Washington.

Enrollment is valid for **12 months** after approval.

Proposed Timeline – 2026

- **Ongoing** – Policy development
- **Mid-April through Mid-June** – System design and development
- **Mid-June through August** – System testing and training
- **September** – Begin program enrollment
- **December** – Low-income discounts begins for trips on SR 167 and SR 509 expressways

Questions?

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