

Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee
July 7, 2011

- 1. Call to Order:** Scott Davis called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Committee members in attendance.

Committee Members in Attendance

W. Scott Davis
Larry Zoeller
Robert Sciacchitano
Davis Mellott
Vonda Chappell

Ex-officio Members in Attendance

Amar Dwarkanath
Kelly Lackey
Eric Martin

Committee Member not in Attendance

Non-Committee Members in Attendance

Terry Herbert Mary Ann Saunders
Earl Sorey Jan Proctor
Belinda Malone Elizabeth Vaughn
Sean Ekiert

- 3. Meeting Discussion:** Mr. Davis introduced the new committee members and provided explanation of the committee's functions.

Mr. Davis motioned to vote by consent to elect Mr. Zoeller as the new vice chair, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Zoeller made a motion to approve the March 15, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Mellott seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Martin presented the new committee members with the Power Point given to City Council on March 22, 2011 in regards to the recent toll increase recommendations. Mr. Martin explained how the toll increase was decided and went over the new rate structure, noting the main driver behind the toll increase was major renewal and replacement items. Mr. Davis explained that the committee decided not to recommend the SDG study proposed rates to City Council. The Committee decided to provide their own recommendations and will continue to review and make recommendations regarding rate adjustments as needed. Mr. Zoeller noted that the original plan of finance for the Expressway recommended rate increases every 5 years, but due to the higher than projected traffic volumes, a rate increase was not implemented. Mr. Davis added that the Committee will also continue to monitor traffic flow on Battlefield Boulevard vs. the Chesapeake Expressway.

Mr. Martin stated that the traffic diversion onto Battlefield has been between 15% and 20%. Mr. Martin assured the committee that the revenue has increased since the toll increase despite the diversion onto Battlefield Boulevard. Mr. Merlott asked how the level of service on Battlefield has been affected. Mr. Sorey informed the committee that the level of service has not decreased significantly and explained how the level of service is determined.

Mr. Martin provided a brief explanation in regards to the Dominion Boulevard project. He stated that the city is pursuing a public plan of finance using various state and federal sources of revenue. The City continues to apply for federal grants and low interest loans to advance the project. Dominion Boulevard is VDOT owned and City maintained. The City is contracted with VDOT to develop a new roadway. It is anticipated that the City will continue to operate and run toll operations on Dominion Boulevard. Mr. Davis informed the committee that the Dominion Boulevard project will be discussed in more detail in a future meeting.

The committee received a request from the Mayor and City Council to review the motorcycle rate increase and provide a recommendation on the possibility of a rate change for motorcycles. Mr. Sorey informed the committee that the previous rate structure offered a motorcycle rate which was equivalent to the discounted rate for a 2 axle vehicle. The new rate structure for motorcycles is \$1 or \$2 on peak weekends and the new discounted rate for 2 axle vehicles is now \$0.75. Mr. Herbert provided information to the committee regarding the toll rates for motorcycles at other toll facilities. Mr. Herbert added that 20,000-21,000 motorcycles travel on the Expressway each year. Mr. Herbert explained that the Expressway works with several motorcycle organizations/associations by offering special travel arrangements and billing to prevent them from having to stop and pay since EZPass transponders are not recommended for use on motorcycles. Mr. Davis motioned not to change the motorcycle rates, Mr. Zoeller seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The committee will provide a letter to City Council informing them of the Committee's decision.

Mr. Davis encouraged the new members to contact Mr. Herbert to schedule a tour of the Expressway at their convenience.

A discussion was had by the committee members regarding comments received from the public in regards to the toll increase.

Mr. Martin advised the committee that the Expressway is starting a new marketing campaign. The goal of the marketing campaign is to educate the public on the toll rate structure and the Expressway's Discount Program.

Mrs. Saunders informed the Committee of the Mayor's request for a rebate program for frequent users of the Expressway. City staff is currently researching options and will provide more information to the committee in the near future.

4. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., September 1, 2011 at the Jordan Bridge.