

Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee
April 10, 2014

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Chappell called the meeting to order at approximately 11:35 a.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

Committee Members in Attendance

Vonda Chappell
Larry Zoeller
David Todd
Lenard Myers (Alternate)
George Midgette

Ex-officio Members in Attendance

Kelly Lackey
Eric Martin
Amar Dwarkanath

Committee Members not in Attendance

Robert Sciacchitano
Matthew Echaniz (Alternate)

Non-Committee Members in Attendance

Earl Sorey
Gary Walton
Elizabeth Vaughn
Mary Ann Saunders

Belinda Malone
Teresa Morgan
Kevin Crum
Sidney Kellam
Shalonda Graham

3. **Meeting Discussion:**

Ms. Chappell made a motion to approve the January 9, 2014 TTFAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Kellam was introduced to the members. His term begins on July 1, 2014. The committee welcomed him.

Ms. Morgan presented a monthly disclosure report for the month of February on the Chesapeake Transportation System (CTS), which included a high level overview of the traffic, revenue, and expenses for the Chesapeake Expressway and the Dominion Boulevard Project. A handout was provided to committee members outlining the following:

- **Expressway Traffic**
 - Traffic is up by 1.2 % in comparison to the same time last year
 - Cash transactions are down by 2.9%
 - Regular full rate E-Z Pass Transactions up by 2.4%
 - E-Z Pass Discount Transactions up by 0.5%

- **Toll Revenue**
 - Toll revenues were flat overall through February this year compared to last year
 - Cash revenues are down by 7.6%

- E-Z Pass is revenue is up by 8.1%
- Discount Program fees are up by 2.4%
- **Dominion Boulevard Project**
 - The total budget for Dominion Boulevard is \$345 million, of which 51% of the budget has been expended as of the end of February.
 - Various funding sources for the project include VDOT funding, bonds proceeds, and in the near future will include the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (VTIB), which are loan funds for project reimbursements.
 - Mr. Walton noted that VTIB is one of the primary funding sources being used and is part of the CTS debt repayment.

Ms. Morgan encouraged committee members to review the financial documents for the CTS on the City's website <http://www.chesapeakeexpressway.com>, and then click on Chesapeake Transportation System Monthly Disclosure Reports. Ms. Morgan also noted that the City filed its first Annual Continuing Disclosure report for the Chesapeake Transportation System at the end of March, which can also be found on the web at www.emma.msrb.org. Go to the website, type (in the search area), City of Chesapeake, Virginia Senior Toll Revenue Bonds, and the data that was filed will be available.

Ms. Chappell stated that it is very exciting to see the progress on the Dominion Boulevard project. Ms. Chappell noted she had been by Dominion Boulevard and had noticed an enormous amount of change and she was excited to participate in the tour of Dominion Boulevard following the meeting.

Mr. Sorey provided the following updates on the Dominion Boulevard Project:

- We are 15 months into the project and making good progress. The project is on schedule and within budget, which is important given the wet and cold winter conditions we experienced.
- The focus of the first year was clearing, utility relocations, construction of the storm water facilities; however, the most notable of these is the construction of the northbound bridge.
- There are a total of nine bridges on the project, two of them cross the southern branch of the Elizabeth River.
- The next big milestone of the project will be completion of the first bridge across the southern branch of the Elizabeth River. It will ultimately carry northbound traffic only; however, upon completion of the bridge in February 2015, there will be two-way traffic on that bridge with one lane in each direction.
- He noted that for the first time since the early 1960's, this will allow travel through the corridor without the impediment of the drawbridge. This will allow travelers to use the corridor without having to pay a toll, which will be a huge benefit.
- Mr. Zoeller asked if there would be tolls once the two-way bridge is opened; Mr. Sorey noted that tolls will not be collected until completion of the project.

Mr. Walton provided the following updates on the Chesapeake Expressway:

Traffic and Revenue

- YTD traffic up 1.2%, while revenue is flat through February and was slightly down in March.
- Cash transactions are down approximately 3%; EZ Pass transactions are up 2.9%.
- We experienced a 400% increase in EZ Pass walk-in customers, new accounts, and telephone inquiries in January and the first half of February, primarily due to the implementation ERT Tolls.
- The volume of EZ Pass traffic continues to grow.

Expressway/Battlefield Distribution

- Weekday distribution of traffic is consistently 30-35% on the Expressway and 65-70% on Battlefield Boulevard.
- Traffic demand is very seasonal, May through August conditions are vastly different from September to May conditions. Winter has definitely impacted our traffic; we had a declared state of emergency due to the snow event on January 28st and January 29th resulting in tolls being suspended for 34 hours from 9PM, Tuesday, January 28th until 7AM, Thursday, January 30th.
- Post storm analysis confirmed that the expense of the toll operations would have exceeded toll revenue (less than 1000 vehicles used the Expressway during toll suspension).
- Overall we've done well, considering the weather impacts we experienced.

Renewal and Replacement Update

- In 2014 R&R Inspections are nearly complete; the draft report should be issued within the next few weeks.
- The Repair and Replacement construction contract is going through the approval process.
- The R&R contract will be just under \$275k, which exhibits the importance of maintaining pavement conditions; drainage systems, physical plant, toll systems are small ticket items when compared to maintaining asphalt and pavement.
- This year's work will consist primarily of Main Building/Toll Canopy Structures maintenance and repair, Stormwater Basin maintenance and repair, ditch clearing, minor roadway spot repairs on shoulders, and installation of LED Speed limit signs in advance of the toll plaza.

YTD Expenses as the end of March

- Payroll and Benefits are at 56%.
- General Expenses (Professional Services, Maintenance Contracts, Operational Expenses, are at 69%.
- Overall Operating Expenses are up by 4.7% over last fiscal year, which is attributed to the completion of the lighting project and replacement of the backup generator.

Installation of Padded Gate Arms

- So far we've seen good results
- Both non-padded and padded gate arms are "break-away", meaning they swing out of the way when hit. The gates are heavy and can cause windshield damage if hit. The padded arms should reduce the likelihood of cracked windshields when gate strikes occur.
- The long term durability of the gates is unknown

Ms. Malone provided the committee with updates pertaining to Operations and the 2014 Peak

Season Preparation.

- Peak season begins May 17th and ends September 7th
- Temporary Toll Collectors will be hired through Reliance Staffing for increased traffic and operational needs.
- Schedules for permanent Toll Collectors will be adjusted to provide an overlap of staff during the peak traffic hours.
- Highest peak times are 9AM, Saturday with an average of 3,303 cars and 11AM, Sunday with an average of 2,400 cars.
- Refresher training and reminders will be provided to all Operations staff (appropriate cash handling, cash drops, safety, how to handle lane issues and traffic back-ups, etc.).
- Chesapeake Police Department provides security on peak weekends-Saturday 7AM-2PM and Sunday 9AM-1PM.
- Management will meet with Transcore to ensure the appropriate dates for peak season toll rates are programmed in the tolling software.

Mr. Crum provided an update on the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge (SNJB).

- EZ Pass usage for March held firm around 71%.
- ERC is converting 85% of pay by plate drivers to EZ Pass.
- Weekday traffic was up 6%, then increased another 5% after tolling began at the downtown tunnel.
- SNJB hired a Collections and Treasury director in March.
- Mr. Crum mentioned a photography contest, which is being held for April 1 encouraging the public to take photos of bridge-imagery that will be shared with the public.
- In March there was a 5.73 % truck increase.
- Biggest client is SPSA with over 4,000 trucks per month and a couple of recycling companies have been added, therefore increasing truck growth.
- The SNJB will receive the Gustav Lindenthal Medal, which is awarded for an outstanding structure that is also aesthetically and environmental pleasing. SNJB will receive this award in June, in Pennsylvania, the press will be following this as well.
- The committee inquired about what makes the bridge design so distinguished- Mr. Crum replied the project as a whole as much as the design, where the old bridge came from to now the speed and technological advantages of the new facility.
- Ms. Chappell congratulated Mr. Crum on receiving the Gustav Lindenthal Medal.

Certificate of Appreciation

- Mr. Zoeller was presented with a certificate and was thanked for his service; Mr. Zoeller said he's learned a lot about toll roads and thanked everyone. Mr. Crum presented Mr. Zoeller with a gift as well.

4. New Business:

NONE

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July10, 2014, at the Chesapeake Expressway Administration Building.

6. Tour of Dominion Boulevard Project