

**Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 14, 2016**

**1. Call to Order:** Ms. Vonda Chappell called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

**2. Roll Call:**

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Vonda Chappell  
Sidney Kellam  
George Midgette  
Matthew Echaniz  
Lenard Myers

**Ex-officio Members in Attendance**

Kelly Lackey  
Eric Martin

**Committee Members not in Attendance**

N/A

**Non-Committee Members in Attendance**

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Michelle Marshall | Belinda Malone   |
| Gary Walton       | Leigh Ann Kling  |
| Kevin Crum        | Veronica Latonio |

**3. Meeting Discussion:**

Ms. Vonda Chappell asked for and received a motion to approve the October 8, 2015 Transportation Toll Facilities Advisory Committee (TTFAC) minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved. Ms. Chappell communicated that the report letter on the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge toll increase was submitted to City Council and posted on the Council webpage.

**4. CTS Financial Summary:**

The financial information presented by Ms. Marshall was related to December 2015 year to date in comparison to December 2014 year to date figures. The following items were discussed:

A. Total Revenue increased by 6.5%

- December 2015 Total Toll Revenue: \$6,864,935
- December 2014 Total Toll Revenue: \$6,446,241

A committee member asked if the increase in toll revenue was directly related to the extra summer peak season weekend that occurred. Mr. Walton responded by explaining that the extra weekend of peak rates did contribute to the increase in revenue.

- B. Total Operating Expenditures increased by 6.4%
  - December 2015 Total Operating Expenditures: \$1,506,285
  - December 2014 Total Operating Expenditures: \$1,415,263
  - The 6.4% increase in operating expenditures is directly related to salary and wages and the purchase of computer equipment. Some of this was offset by a decrease in office supplies.
  
- C. The Expressway is on target/in line with the FY16 budget for the year through December 31, 2015.

## **5. Dominion Boulevard Project Summary**

- Mr. Martin and Mr. Walton explained the project continues to be ahead of schedule and on budget.
- There is an additional project running in conjunction with the Dominion Blvd project that will allow for one contiguous roadway where Route 17 meets the new interchange being constructed at Cedar Road.
- Mr. Martin explained that there will be upcoming traffic pattern changes due to construction. Tolling will begin when the project is complete.

A committee member asked if it is still expected there will be an increase in expenditures based on getting the toll system in place during this fiscal year. Mr. Walton explained that when a new system comes on line there are significant expenses. The new system has both EZPass and the pay-by-plate method of toll collection. The expenses incurred for toll collection for pay-by-plate include plate identifications and billing. An increase in EZPass usage will result in an increase in the fees assigned by EZPass to the toll facility. The expenses for Dominion Boulevard are built into the financial models.

## **6. Chesapeake Transportation System**

Mr. Walton updated the committee with the following information:

- Year to date (through December 2015) traffic is up 4.7%
- Revenue is up 6.5%
- Cash transactions are down 3.0%
- EZPass transactions are up 13.7%
- Discount Program transactions are up 3.2%
- There is a continued increase in the growth of EZPass traffic
- The mild winter and low fuel prices have contributed to strong growth in November 2015 (8.3%), December 2015(9.6%), through January 13, 2016(14%)

A committee member asked if the reduced speed limit on Battlefield may be contributing to increased traffic on the Expressway. Mr. Walton answered that the change was unlikely to impact traffic patterns. It is more likely the mild weather and low gas prices were the main contributing factors to an increase of traffic to the Outer Banks.

Mr. Walton updated the committee on Renewal and Replacement:

- The FY 15 construction was completed in December. The final punch list item is currently underway and should be completed shortly. That contract will then be closed.
- The FY 16 R&R consultant task order was submitted in December. This year's work is expected to consist primarily of main building and toll canopy structures maintenance and repair, storm water basin maintenance and repair, ditch clearing, minor roadway repairs on shoulders and embankments and toll system upgrades.
- Administrative building modifications will be deferred to December 2016 to allow for all construction activities to be completed prior to peak season 2017.

Ms. Malone updated the committee on toll system work:

- Lane controllers (CPUs that control the toll and lane equipment) are at their end of life and will be replaced.
- The Patron Toll Displays (PTD) are the signs mounted on the side of the toll booth and allow customers to see the toll amount due. They are being replaced.
- Overhead Lane signs will be replaced with LED three line changeable message signs which will allow for better communication with drivers.

## **7. South Norfolk Jordan Bridge**

- Mr. Crum reported that over the three years the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge (SNJB) has been operating there has been a 95% increase in daily traffic and 122% increase in truck traffic. A portion of the increase in car traffic is a result of the weekend closures at the Elizabeth River Crossing. It is anticipated that traffic will be leveling off.
- There has been a significant increase in EZPass users from 50% at inception to 63% currently. There is further EZPass growth expected with the opening of Dominion Boulevard.
- There was a toll increase on January 1, 2016, bringing the EZPass rate to \$2.00 for 2 axle vehicles. January traffic is down which can be attributed to the shipyard taking a long holiday break.
- The first advertiser started using the LED signs. These LED signs allow communication with drivers.
- DMV license plate look up remains expensive at \$1.75 for each plate. It is hopeful that legislation will be passed allowing for free DMV lookups for private toll road operators to keep the cost of toll rates lower. Ms. Latonio went on to explain additional proposed toll legislation in the State Legislature which would require changes in business rules for toll facilities with regard to invoicing.
- Ms. Latonio reported that the SNJB began testing a new program for DMV designed specifically for toll facilities, which allows a hold to be placed on vehicle registration renewals when there are unpaid tolls associated with the vehicle. This program went live December 18, 2015 and has been successful. Full automation is not yet available for this program.
- Mr. Martin mentioned that the issue of tolling the Virginia State Police vehicles using the SNJB had been brought up at a recent City Council meeting. Mr. Crum thanked Mr. Martin and indicated they would follow up with the Virginia State Police to resolve the issue.

- A committee member asked for an explanation of the toll recycle process. Ms. Latonio explained that the recycle process is a program that searches for a license plate match to an EZPass account for a 10 day recycle period. This allows the EZPass users time to replenish their account if it is in a negative balance. This saves money and time for the customer as well as the toll facility.

A committee member asked about the percentage of people who use the road without paying the toll. Ms. Latonio answered that the leakage rate is approximately 11%. Mr. Walton went on to explain that 11% is a very typical number for an open road toll facility. The Chesapeake Expressway has a signal light system that gives the driver a visual indication as to whether their transponder had a valid read. This signal light system provides a visual indication of when an EZPass account has a low balance or negative balance. This prompts a driver to check their account and deposit funds if necessary. This is why the Chesapeake Expressway has a much lower leakage rate. When Dominion Boulevard comes on line, the expected leakage rate will be closer to that of other open road toll facilities.

A committee member asked if the interchange where Interstate 464, Route 17 and the Expressway meet, will be widened for safety issues. Mr. Martin explained that change is part of a different, future project involving VDOT.

A committee member asked if the short ramp onto the Expressway at Kempsville Road will be widened. Mr. Martin answered that at this time there is no plan for changes at that location.

## **8. New Business**

- The committee unanimously voted Lenard Myers as the new Chairman of the Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee.
- Vonda Chappell was unanimously voted as the new Vice Chair of the Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee.
- TTFAC meetings for the remainder of 2015 will be:
  - April 14, 2016
  - July 14, 2016
  - October 6, 2016

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 PM.