

Transportation Toll Facility Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting
April 14, 2016

1. Call to Order: Mr. Lenard Myers called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM.

2. Roll Call:

Committee Members in Attendance

Vonda Chappell
George Midgette
Lenard Myers

Ex-officio Members in Attendance

Richard Hartwick
Eric Martin

Committee Members not in Attendance

Matthew Echaniz
Sidney Kellam

Non-Committee Members in Attendance

Belinda Malone	Elizabeth Vaughn
Gary Walton	Leigh Ann Kling
Kevin Crum	Veronica Latonio

3. Meeting Discussion:

Mr. Lenard Myers asked for and received a motion to approve the January 14, 2016 Transportation Toll Facilities Advisory Committee (TTFAC) minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Walton provided financial updates on the Chesapeake Transportation System:

- Traffic and revenue through the end of March showed traffic up 7.0% and revenue up 8.8%.
- Cash transactions were down 0.8% while full fare EZPass transactions were up 5.3%.
- Mild winter and low fuel prices have probably contributed to the strong traffic and revenue growth in January, February and March.
- Operating expenses are up 5.5% year to date but still well below budgeted expenses.
- Toll violation rates are consistently 1.4%-1.5% and participation in the 10 day recycle VToll process allows for 35-40% of those violations to be collected directly from EZPass accounts without going through the violations process.

A committee member asked about the rise in operating expenses and Mr. Walton explained that this can be attributed to systems upgrades, increased expenses in payroll and healthcare, as well as maintenance expenses.

Mr. Walton provided a Dominion Boulevard update:

- Dominion Boulevard is scheduled to open April 2017, but may actually be open as early as this fall.
- The southbound section is approximately 70% complete.
- The southbound bridge is approximately 70% complete.
- Ramp over Great Bridge Blvd., I-64 and Route 168 is 100% complete.
- Bainbridge Boulevard ramps are 100% complete.
- Overpass ramps at Cedar Road are at 87% complete.
- Great Bridge Boulevard section is 85% complete.
- The overall project is 84% complete, 76% of the contract days have elapsed, and the budget is at 84%.
- The toll system company, Kapsch, performed system tests in April. Test reports have not been released at this time.

Mr. Martin added that geotechnical activities have been completed and no further action should be needed barring adverse weather. With the completion of equipment testing and back office testing it is anticipated that all construction will be completed and the road should open between September and December of 2016.

There will be a minimum of a one month test period for the toll system so that all toll processing equipment is properly working before actually collecting tolls.

When the original toll schedule was established, it was based on a toll system that counts vehicle axles; however, upon commencement of the toll system design, newer tolling technology and placement of the toll system resulted in a classification based toll system design. The toll system will include five different vehicle classifications: a motorcycle, an automobile, an automobile towing a vehicle, small delivery type truck and a tractor trailer. Steer Davies Gleave (SDG), the traffic and revenue consultant, will provide modeling to revise the toll schedule from an axle based toll schedule to a classification based toll schedule.

A committee member asked if this change will require another public hearing. Mr. Martin explained that it will have to go to City Council but was uncertain if a public hearing would be required (Mr. Walton agreed to follow up and it was later determined that a public hearing would be needed.). Mr. Hartwick explained that it will probably require City Council action and the public would have the opportunity to comment on the agenda item.

Mr. Walton announced that United Bridge Partners will be the back office vendor for Dominion Blvd. and indicated they are currently working through the finalization of the back office business rules. In addition, once the back office business rules and the financial business rules are complete they will be tested during the same time period the roadway equipment will be tested to ensure all systems work together.

A committee member asked if the accelerated pace of the Dominion Blvd. project required the Expressway to delay planned building modifications to the Chesapeake Expressway Administrative Building. Mr. Walton explained that the reason for the delay this past winter/spring was that construction could have potentially stretched into peak season and that would negatively impact the Expressway business office. Construction activities during

the slowest part of the year are desired to minimize the impact on operations and customer service. The Dominion Blvd. project should have no impact on the Administrative Building modification project.

A committee member asked what the speed limit will be once Dominion Boulevard opens. Mr. Martin answered that while it is not finalized as of yet. (It has since been confirmed that the speed limit on Dominion Boulevard will be 55 MPH).

Mr. Walton spoke about the financial health of the Expressway:

- Standard and Poor's confirmed the BBB rating for the CTS. They reported the financial outlook of CTS as stable.
- R&R Inspections (2016) are under way and should be completed soon. The Administrative modifications for the Expressway were tabled until this coming fall/winter.
- Steer Davies Gleave (Traffic and Revenue Consultant) has been tasked with providing the following items:
 - Dominion Boulevard toll rate revision.
 - Chesapeake Expressway-toll forecast update will take place after peak season.
 - CTS forecast update will take place after the completion of Dominion Blvd.

Mr. Walton spoke about House Bill 1069 which was introduced in the Virginia legislature and is directly related to toll facilities:

- There is a \$2200.00 cap on the fees for the initial court appearance. There is a modification on the fees and penalties that can be levied.
- They have also modified the time frame in which action may be taken with violators. There is a mandatory 10 day recycle process to be implemented at all VA toll facilities. There is also a provision in the bill that toll facilities must notify VDOT within 96 hours of unpaid transactions. This will be difficult for the Expressway on long holiday weekends such as Thanksgiving as the administrative offices are closed, but the Expressway staff will work with EZPass to insure the notification requirement is met.

Mr. Walton also spoke about the following items:

- The Expressway will be implementing the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) function on the toll system to automatically process violations that meet the OCR confidence level threshold so that the office manual review process will be streamlined.
- Congress has mandated National Interoperability requirements which will establish new requirements related to Electronic Toll Collection. These requirements will ultimately mean that the toll facilities will be required to read all transponders that meet the 2 or 3 selected standards. At this time, there is no national standard. This will require changes in toll card readers and back office procedures to collect the proper tolls when the interoperability standards are adopted.

- Chesapeake Expressway will have a toll increase for peak weekend rates beginning the weekend before Memorial Day through the weekend after Labor Day. There will be no increase for Discount Program Members.

Ms. Vaughn explained the methods of communication to patrons regarding the toll increase which include the website, email, and variable message signs. In addition, Ms. Vaughn is working on getting the Dominion Blvd. website active and encouraging patrons to obtain their EZPass transponder prior to the opening of the road so they can avoid paying a higher rate. Ms. Vaughn is developing a comprehensive Communication Plan which will contain the various promotional activities in advance of the opening of Dominion Boulevard.

Ms. Malone gave an update on the Chesapeake Expressway toll operations.

- Gates have been replaced.
- Peak season preparations have begun.
- Staffing should be at a good level.

Mr. Crum gave an update for the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge (SNJB):

- Traffic has been good this year settling in at a good rate.
- Traffic fluctuates depending on the shipyard and other closures in the area resulting in increased traffic demand at the SNJB.
- EZPass usage is over 74%.
- There is a spring promotion where southbound travel is free of charge.

Ms. Latonio discussed the DMV vehicle registration hold initiative.

- Vehicle registration withholding due to unpaid tolls is active.
- 400-500 notices are sent out a week. This is currently done manually but is in the process of being automated.
- SNJB has applied to become the EZPass reload card retailer.

4. There were no further discussions and the meeting concluded at 12:50PM. The next TTFAC meeting will be held at the Chesapeake Expressway on July 14, 2016.