



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**

### **CTRMA Drafts Toll Policies**

#### ***Authority seeks additional public input on draft version***

**AUSTIN, TX October 27, 2004** – The Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) Board approved the release of draft toll policies today (see attached). Toll policies are a set of rules and procedures that govern the administration and operation of the overall toll road system. The goal of the CTRMA is to develop customer friendly toll policies that balance the needs of the agency as determined by traffic and revenue studies, bond financing requirements, legal counsel, and external agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation, CAMPO and the citizens in the Central Texas region.

“We are actively listening to the community as we develop and finalize our toll policies,” says Mike Heiligenstein, CTRMA executive director. “The input we have gathered so far has been helpful as we design the toll policies.” In late September the CTRMA Board approved a public involvement plan that would engage a diverse cross section of Central Texas stakeholders in substantive dialogue pertaining to the development of tolling policies. Since early October the CTRMA has conducted in-depth stakeholder input sessions and various public presentations geared towards soliciting feedback and recommendations in the key areas of:

- discounts and incentives
- payment methods and account set-up
- customer service and violations

CTRMA is developing an electronic toll collection system for its roads. Drivers will be able to use a “toll tag” and drive through toll lanes without stopping to pay a toll. The toll tag would be set up with a prepaid account either by cash or tied to a credit card. With the release of the draft toll policies, the CTRMA is requesting and encouraging citizens in Central Texas to participate in the 30 day public comment and review period running from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Citizens may visit the CTRMA website at [www.ctrma.org](http://www.ctrma.org), call the CTRMA hotline at 512-314-5711, or participate at the CTRMA open house and public hearing scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Norris Conference Center (Northcross Mall) located at 2525 W. Anderson Lane, Open House starts at 5:30 pm, with the hearing to follow at 7:00 pm.

The CTRMA Board is scheduled to formally adopt the toll policies on December 8, 2004.

The draft toll policies include:

- A 10% discount for customers who use an electronic toll tag
- Providing free toll tags to customers and \$10.00 in free tolls to customers who open an account. The toll tags would be activated by opening an account with a minimum of \$20.00 in it for individuals.
- A 10% discount for public transit vehicles and school buses who use a toll tag. These vehicles would also be charged the passenger vehicle toll rate, which is approximately three times less than the commercial rate.
- A six-month introductory period for each toll road that opens that provides:
  - one month of free use to everyone who drives on the toll road
  - an additional month for drivers who open a toll tag account
  - and an additional 50% off for toll tag users over the next four months.
- A customer-friendly violations policy that gives customers a chance to pay their tolls prior to the assessment of a \$25 administrative fee and fines up to \$250.
- Options for payment methods for tolls including cash, credit and debit cards and account set up at convenient locations including grocery stores, online and convenience stores.

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