



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL  
**MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

September 30, 2020  
**AGENDA ITEM #15**

---

Executive Director Board Report

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility  
Department: Executive  
Contact: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director  
Associated Costs: N/A  
Funding Source: N/A  
Action Requested: Briefing and Board Discussion Only

Executive Director Board Report:

- A. Key findings of CTRMA travel behavior survey
- B. Effect of COVID-19 on agency operations
- C. 183 North procurement update
- D. 183 South schedule update
- E. Annual toll rate adjustments

Backup Provided: Presentation

# MOBILITY AUTHORITY POLICY CODE

## Chapter 3: OPERATIONS

### Article 9. TOLL POLICIES

#### Subchapter A. TOLL RATES

##### **301.001 Priority of Bond Documents**

Notwithstanding any conflicting provision in this subchapter or in a prior resolution adopting the Toll Policies, the toll rates and schedules promulgated by the authority shall always be sufficient to meet or exceed all covenants and requirements set forth in all applicable bond documents and obligations of the authority. If any conflict arises between the bond documents and this subchapter or a prior resolution adopting the Toll Policies, the covenants and requirements of the bond documents shall control to the extent of such conflict.

##### **301.002 Toll Rates**

- (a) The authority shall establish toll rates for each tolled facility operated by the authority. Each toll established by this section is subject to an adjustment on January 1 of each year under the procedure set forth in Section 301.003 (Annual Toll Rate Escalation). The executive director is authorized and directed to edit a toll established by this section to update and certify any change to a toll made pursuant to Section 301.003.
- (b) The toll charge for each tolled facility operated by the authority shall be published on the authority website.
- (c) The toll charged for use of the MoPac Express Lanes shall be variable in nature. The minimum toll rate will be \$0.25 per Express Lane segment, in 2016 dollars. The minimum toll rate per segment will be adjusted annually by \$0.05 per segment until the minimum toll rate is \$0.50, at which point the minimum toll rate per segment will be adjusted annually in accordance with the methodology for toll rate escalation provided in Section 301.003. There shall be no maximum toll rate. To maximize throughput and maintain free flowing conditions, the toll rate for each MoPac Express Lane segment shall change on a real-time basis based on traffic volumes. When traffic volumes increase, the minimum toll rate shall be increased as much as necessary to prevent the MoPac Express Lane(s) from becoming congested. When traffic volumes decrease, the toll rate shall be reduced to encourage use of the MoPac Express Lane(s). The primary goal of the variable toll rate is to minimize congestion on the MoPac Express Lanes and to encourage more people to ride public transit or join a registered vanpool. Changeable message signs shall be located prior to the entrance of each MoPac Express Lane segment to notify customers of the current toll rate. A customer shall never pay more than the toll rate information shown on the sign located near the vehicle's entry point, but may be charged less. The Mobility Authority may reduce tolls if it determines that operational issues warrant such an adjustment.

# MOBILITY AUTHORITY POLICY CODE

## 301.003 Annual Toll Rate Escalation

(a) The following provisions are fully adopted and made a part of this subchapter and may be incorporated in any Trust Indenture or Supplemental Trust Indenture issued in conjunction with bond financing to be utilized for the financing of the construction and development of projects by the authority (defined terms in these provisions shall be in accordance with the terms and definitions set forth in the Master Trust Indenture and any applicable Supplemental Trust Indenture):

Subject in all instances to the provisions, requirements and restrictions of the Master Indenture, as amended and supplemented from time to time, beginning on October 1, 2012 and on each October 1 thereafter (the “Toll Escalation Determination Date”), a percentage increase in the Toll rates charged on all toll facilities in the Turnpike System will be determined in an amount equal to the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage. The Toll Rate Escalation Percentage, as calculated on each Toll Escalation Determination Date, shall be reported to the board each year at its October board meeting. The percentage increase in the Toll rates shall be effective on the January 1 of the next calendar year, unless at such board meeting the board affirmatively votes to modify the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage. If the board votes to modify the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage, the Toll rate increase to be effective on January 1 of the next calendar year shall be based on the modified Toll Rate Escalation Percentage.

(b) For purposes of determining the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage, the following capitalized terms shall have the meanings given below:

- (1) “Toll Rate Escalation Percentage” = shall mean a percentage amount equal to  $[(CPI^t - CPI^{t-12})/CPI^{t-12}]$ . In the event the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage is calculated to equal less than 0%, then the Toll Rate Escalation Percentage shall be deemed to equal 0%.
- (2) “CPI” = the most recently published non-revised index of Consumer Prices for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) before seasonal adjustment (“CPI”), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor (“BLS”) prior to the Toll Escalation Determination Date for which such calculation is being made. The CPI is published monthly and the CPI for a particular month is generally released and published during the following month. The CPI is a measure of the average change in consumer prices over time for a fixed market basket of goods and services, including food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation, charges for doctors’ and dentists’ services, and drugs. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of urban households in the United States. The contents of the market basket of goods and services and the weights assigned to the various items are updated periodically by the BLS to take into account changes in consumer expenditure patterns. The CPI is expressed in relative terms in

## MOBILITY AUTHORITY POLICY CODE

relation to a time base reference period for which the level is set at 100.0. The base reference period for the CPI is the 1982-1984 average.

- (3) “CPI<sup>t-12</sup>” = the CPI published by the BLS in the month that is 12 months prior to the month used to established CPI<sup>t</sup>.
- (4) If the CPI is discontinued or substantially altered, as determined in the sole discretion of the authority, the authority will determine an appropriate substitute index or, if no such substitute index is able to be determined, the authority reserves the right to modify its obligations under this section.

### **301.004 Exemption from Toll**

- (a) The operator or the registered owner of a vehicle operated on an authority toll facility is required to pay the toll established by this subchapter unless the vehicle is exempted by federal law, state law or by this section.
- (b) An authorized emergency vehicle defined by Section 541.201, Transportation Code, is exempt from paying a toll to use an authority toll facility under Section 370.177, Transportation Code.
- (c) A state or federal military vehicle is exempt from paying a toll to use an authority toll facility under Section 362.901, Transportation Code.
- (d) Through December 31, 2021, recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Legion of Valor and Purple Heart awards as well as Disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the Qualified Veterans Toll Discount Program to be exempt from paying a toll to use the authority’s non variable rate toll facilities. Participation is limited to no more than two vehicles per qualified veteran, the designated primary plate and an additional plate upon demonstration of a hardship as determined by the Executive Director. All participants must be registered with the authority; the vehicle must be registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles; the vehicle must have a qualifying specialty plate and have it properly displayed; the vehicle must be associated to an electronic toll tag account; and the participating veteran must have no outstanding CTRMA toll violations at the time of the transaction. The exemption does not apply to the authority’s express lane facilities.
- (e) Under Section 370.177(a-1), Transportation Code, and to facilitate a multi-modal transportation system that ensures safe and efficient travel for all individuals in central Texas, a vehicle used exclusively to provide transportation to a member of the public under a transit program