



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

October 30, 2024
AGENDA ITEM #7

Discuss and consider amending the
Mobility Authority Policy Code §
301.002 regarding toll rates for
Mobility Authority express lane
facilities

Strategic Plan Relevance:	Stewardship
Department:	Finance
Contact:	José Hernández, Chief Financial Officer
Associated Costs:	N/A
Funding Source:	N/A
Action Requested:	Consider and act on draft resolution

Project Description/Background: The Mobility Authority's Policy Code is a deliberate statement of intent of how the agency will operate. The Policy Code provides guidelines and, in some cases, establishes the procedures and protocol required for key processes. The goal of the Policy Code is to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes through its utilization and implementation.

Action Requested: Section 301.002 of the Mobility Authority's Policy Code describes the agency's toll rate policy for the MoPac Express lanes as well as several operational issues related to the signage. Staff proposes the following changes to enhance the Policy Code. These changes include:

- Separating § 301.002 into multiple subsections to improve readability.
- Isolating aspects of the Policy Code that only applies to the MoPac Express Lanes.
- Updating the language to clearly identify the policies that apply to all Mobility Authority express lane toll facilities including the future 183 Express Lanes.
- Clarifying that the minimum toll rate per segment will be applied when technical issues prevent the toll rate from being applied.

Previous Actions & Brief History of the Program/Project: The Mobility Authority's Policy Code was approved by the CTRMA Board of Directors in February 2012. Numerous amendments have been made since the Policy Code's adoption.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approving an amendment to the Mobility Authority Policy Code § 301.002 regarding toll rate signage on all express lane facilities.

Financing: Not applicable

Backup Provided: Draft resolution
Draft Mobility Authority Policy Code § 301.002

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-0XX

AMENDING MOBILITY AUTHORITY POLICY CODE SECTION 301.002

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 12-016 dated February 29, 2012, the Board of Directors adopted the Mobility Authority Policy Code (“Policy Code”); and

WHEREAS, subsequent to its initial adoption, the Board of Directors has amended the Policy Code from time to time in order to modify existing policies and incorporate new policies beneficial to the operation of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (“Mobility Authority”); and

WHEREAS, staff recommends amending Section 301.002 of the Policy Code to (1) clearly distinguish between the provisions of the Policy Code applicable only to the MoPac Express Lanes and those that apply to all Mobility Authority express lane toll facilities, including the future 183 Express Lanes, and (2) clarify that the applicable minimum toll rate per segment will be charged when technical issues prevent the toll rate from being posted on the changeable message signs; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director recommends amending Section 301.002 of the Policy Code as shown in Exhibit A, implementing the staff recommendations described herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby amends Section 301.002 of the Policy Code as shown in Exhibit A attached hereto.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 30th day of October 2024.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Approved:

James M. Bass
Executive Director

Robert W. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors

Exhibit A

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 comprised of both a minimum toll, as well as a variable component that is activated during higher traffic volumes. The minimum toll rate per segment will be adjusted annually by \$0.07 per segment for calendar 2024, \$0.08 per segment for calendar 2025, and \$0.08 for calendar 2026 until the minimum toll rate is \$0.73, which will coincide with the expected minimum toll rate for the 183N managed-Express Lanes at the time it opens for tolling. Once the MoPac Express Lanes minimum toll rate reaches \$0.73 per segment it will be adjusted annually in accordance with the methodology for toll rate escalation provided in Section 301.003.

~~(d) There shall be no maximum toll rate on Express Lane facilities.~~

~~(e) To maximize throughput and maintain free flowing conditions, the toll rate for each MoPac Express-express Lane-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-express Lane-lane(s) from becoming congested. When traffic volumes decrease, the toll rate shall be reduced to encourage use of the MoPac Express-express Lane-lane(s).~~

~~(f) The primary goals of the variable toll rates is-are to minimize congestion on the MoPac Express-express Lanes-lanes and to encourage more people to ride public transit or join a registered vanpool.~~

~~(g) Changeable message signs shall be located prior to the entrance of each MoPac Express-express Lane-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 point may be charged less. If a technical issue prevents a toll rate from being posted, then a customer shall be charged the minimum toll rate per segment.~~

~~(h) The Mobility Authority may reduce toll rates if it determines that operational issues warrant such an adjustment.~~

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- (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 comprised of both a minimum toll, as well as a variable component that is activated during higher traffic volumes. The minimum toll rate per segment will be adjusted annually by \$0.07 per segment for calendar 2024, \$0.08 per segment for calendar 2025, and \$0.08 for calendar 2026 until the minimum toll rate is \$0.73, which will coincide with the expected minimum toll rate for the 183N Express Lanes at the time it opens for tolling. Once the MoPac Express Lane minimum toll rate reaches \$0.73 per segment it will be adjusted annually in accordance with the methodology for toll rate escalation provided in Section 301.003.
- (d) There shall be no maximum toll rate on express lane facilities.
- (e) To maximize throughput and maintain free flowing conditions, the toll rate for each 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 express lane(s) from becoming congested. When traffic volumes decrease, the toll rate shall be reduced to encourage use of the express lane(s).
- (f) The primary goals of the variable toll rates are to minimize congestion on express lanes and to encourage more people to ride public transit or join a registered vanpool.
- (g) Changeable message signs shall be located prior to the entrance of each 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. If a technical issue prevents a toll rate from being posted, then a customer shall be charged the minimum toll rate per segment.
- (h) The Mobility Authority may reduce toll rates if it determines that operational issues warrant such an adjustment.