

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority ExpressLanes Toll Policy

Purpose

The framework detailed herein establishes policies to operate, maintain, and administer the ExpressLanes to ensure program goals are met. The policies will be used to operate the current Metro ExpressLanes program and any future ExpressLanes facilities in compliance with the program goals and Board direction. This policy framework will be expanded or modified as the ExpressLanes system grows and technology changes.

Program Goals

The following goals are established for the ExpressLanes program. The specific policies that follow derive their authority from these goals, and any future policy decisions should be measured against these goals to ensure compliance with the goals.

- Provide a safe, reliable, predictable commute for customers of the ExpressLanes
- Reinforce LACMTA's ongoing efforts to increase vehicle occupancy rates and transit ridership
- Use dynamic pricing to manage traffic and optimize -people throughput in the corridor
- Provide excellent customer service
- Operate and maintain a self-sustaining ExpressLanes program
- Utilize any surplus toll revenue for corridor improvements and system expansion

Chapter 1: OPERATIONS

Performance Requirements 100.005

In accordance with Section 166 of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, the ExpressLanes performance will be monitored to ensure a minimum average operating speed of 45 miles per hour, 90 percent of the time during weekday peak periods.

Mitigation strategies to be deployed, should performance degrade, are as follows:

- (a) Increase the maximum toll charged to vehicles to reduce demand as described in 100.005, up to four times, then implement strategy (b), or (c), as appropriate;
- (b) Extend the peak period hours, as described in 200.015, then implement strategy (a) or (c), as appropriate;
- (c) Discontinue non-HOV vehicle use of ExpressLanes, and implement strategy (a) as appropriate.

Peak period performance will be monitored against ExpressLanes performance requirements. Staff will adjust the peak period to maintain performance standards.

For tolling operations, after four occurrences, within a quarter, of meeting the HOV threshold in a non-peak hour, staff may increase the duration of the peak-period to include the hour. For example,

if HOV Only has occurred four times during the 9:00 am and 10:00 am hour within the past 3 months then the peak period would now be extended to 10:00 AM from 9:00 AM

HOV threshold is defined as:

- (a) System in HOV Only mode;
- (b) Lasting more than 35 minutes; and
- (c) Excludes incidents.

Chapter 2: Toll Rates, Exemptions and Discounts

Toll Rate Setting 200.005

When the ExpressLanes are in operation, the toll rate schedule will be a minimum of \$0.10 per mile during off-peak hours and \$0.35 per mile during peak hours, as defined in policy 200.015. Toll rates will vary based on, traffic density (traffic volumes/travel speeds) and will automatically adjust using a dynamic pricing system. The trip price is determined by multiplying the miles travelled by the rate per mile in each tolling segment at the time of the trip. Staff will monitor toll rates against ExpressLanes performance and adjust the maximum rate per mile to maintain performance standards and ensure the following ExpressLane toll rate goals are met:

- Provide a safe, reliable, predictable commute for customers of the ExpressLanes
- Optimize people throughput in the corridor.

After four occurrences, within a quarter, of meeting the density threshold, staff may increase the maximum price per mile per segment by \$0.10 and up to four times a year.

Density threshold is defined as:

- Density exceeding 48 (calculated as traffic volume/average travel speed);
- Lasting more than 35 minutes; and
- Excludes incidents.

Toll Exemptions 200.010

Except as provided herein, all vehicles using the ExpressLanes must pay the required toll. Only qualified vehicles may be exempt from paying tolls. The registered owner and operator of the qualified vehicle must comply with the requirements of the agency in order to obtain the exemption. The following vehicles qualify for exemption:

- (a) Mass transit and paratransit as defined in Vehicle Code Section 21655.5;
- (b) Carpools and vanpools, as established for each tolled facility;
- (c) Motorcycles;
- (d) California Highway Patrol;

(e) Authorized marked emergency vehicles on bona fide emergencies as defined in Vehicle Code Section 23301.5;

(f) Maintenance vehicles directly involved in maintenance on the ExpressLanes and adjoining bus stations or responding to bus related incidents; and

(g) Tow trucks authorized by Freeway Service Patrol responding to incidents on the ExpressLanes.

Toll Discounts 200.015

The following classes of vehicles may qualify for a toll discount. The registered owner of the qualified vehicle must comply with the following requirements to obtain the discount:

(a) HOV 2 discount during off-peak hours on Interstate 10 or during all times on Interstate 110, where applicable and indicated by roadway signage.

(b) HOV 3 discount during peak hours on Interstate 10, and during all times on Interstate 105, where applicable and indicated by roadway signage.