

May 12, 2010

May 14, 2010



PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSALS TO:

ESTABLISH A TOLL FOR CARPOOLS;
INCREASE MULTI-AXLE VEHICLE TOLLS; AND,
EFFECT CHANGES TO GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT COMMUTE BUS SERVICE

The District is facing a \$132 million five-year projected deficit as a result of several recent developments, including the current recession, which has resulted in reduced revenues, the loss of state transit funding, and the commitment of \$75 million toward the Doyle Drive reconstruction project. In May 2009, the Board established the Financial Planning Advisory Committee, tasked with creating a plan to address the projected financial deficit. The resulting *FY 09/10 Financial Plan for Achieving Long-Term Financial Stability* (Plan) was approved by the Board on October 30, 2009.

The Plan laid out 33 specific initiatives that, if implemented, will help restore the District to stable financial footing. The following proposals cover Initiatives 23 and 9 of the Plan, which calls for increasing certain special-category toll rates, and eliminating duplicative bus service and bus trips with low ridership, respectively.

FasTrak Discount for Carpool Vehicles

The proposed FasTrak toll discount for carpool vehicles will be 50% of the cash toll (effective July 1, 2010, the toll rate would be \$3.00 per carpool vehicle). Qualifying vehicles will be required to register with FasTrak and use a transponder to pay their toll; vehicles wishing to receive the toll discount will be required to stop in a staffed lane to manually verify vehicle occupancy. There is no cash toll discount for carpool vehicles. Carpools are 2-axle vehicles with 3 or more passengers, motorcycles and buses during the District's carpool hours, which are between the hours of 5:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The proposed carpool toll would not apply on New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, similar to the current exclusion for free carpools on those days. Presently, clean air vehicles with white California DMV Clean Air decals qualify for the carpool toll during the District's carpool hours. It is proposed that these Clean Air vehicles continue to be considered carpools under the District's toll policy and receive the FasTrak discount for carpool vehicles of 50%. Vehicles with yellow California DMV Clean Air decals do not currently receive a discount and will continue to be treated as regular vehicles.

Multi-Axle Vehicle Toll Increase

The proposed multi-axle vehicle toll action will increase the per-axle toll for 3+ axle vehicles by \$2.50 per axle for FasTrak toll customers and \$3 per axle for cash toll customers (toll rate would be \$5 per axle for FasTrak customers and \$6 per axle for cash toll customers), to be capped at 7 axles, with half of the multi-axle toll increase to occur on July 1, 2011, and the other half of the increase to occur on July 1, 2012 as follows:

Axles	Current		July 1, 2011		July 1, 2012	
	FasTrak Toll	Cash Toll	FasTrak Toll	Cash Toll	FasTrak Toll	Cash Toll
3	\$7.50	\$9	\$11.25	\$13	\$15	\$18
4	\$10.00	\$12	\$15.00	\$18	\$20	\$24
5	\$12.50	\$15	\$18.75	\$22	\$25	\$30
6	\$15.00	\$18	\$22.50	\$27	\$30	\$36
7+	\$17.50	\$21	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42
8	\$20.00	\$24	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42
9	\$22.50	\$27	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42
10	\$25.00	\$30	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42
11	\$27.50	\$33	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42
12	\$30.00	\$36	\$26.25	\$31	\$35	\$42

The proposed FasTrak discount toll for carpools will be implemented on July 1, 2010, and is projected to generate \$1.2 million in additional toll revenues in FY 10/11. The proposed multi-axle vehicle toll will be implemented in two stages, the first half of the increase will go into effect on July 1, 2011, and is projected to generate an additional \$600,000 in toll revenue in FY 11/12; and the full increase will be in place on July 1, 2012, and is projected to generate an additional \$1.2 million in toll revenue in FY 12/13.

Proposed Bus Service Reductions

At the March 12, 2010, Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved setting a public hearing on the following staff proposal to eliminate duplicative and/or low ridership bus services.

The bus service changes, if approved by the Board of Directors following both the public hearing and the presentation of staff report with responses to public comments to the Board on May 27, 2010, would become effective September 12, 2010.

The following routes are recommended for change due to low ridership or duplication with other GGT routes. Alternative transit options are identified for each proposed service change:

ROUTE	PROPOSED ACTION	NO. OF TRIPS	SERVICE ALTERNATIVES
24	Eliminate service between Lagunitas and Fairfax/Manor	2 trips (1 southbound; 1 northbound)	West Marin Stage
26	Eliminate service between Sleepy Hollow and San Anselmo Hub and assign remaining trips to Route 27	5 trips (2 southbound; 3 northbound)	Other GGT service on Route 24; portion of Route 26 from Hub to SF to be kept as Route 27 trips
44	Eliminate all service	8 trips (4 southbound; 4 northbound)	Other GGT service at U.S. 101 bus pads and at SRTC
58	Eliminate service between Rowland Blvd. & Ignacio via Sunset Pkwy. and Ignacio Blvd.	7 trips (4 southbound; 4 northbound)	Other GGT service at Ignacio pad stops; Marin Transit Route 51
72/76	Eliminate direct SF Civic Center trips	Route 72: 2 trips (1 southbound; 1 northbound) Route 76: 3 trips (2 southbound; 1 northbound)	Financial District service with transfer to Route 93 at Toll Plaza
73	Eliminate all service	7 trips (4 southbound; 3 northbound)	Financial District service with transfer to Route 93 at Toll Plaza
75	Eliminate all service	6 trips (3 southbound; 3 northbound)	Other GGT service on Routes 70, 71 and 101

If implemented, the package of proposed service reductions has an estimated one-year net savings impact of up to \$1.4 million. Staff will incorporate final service changes into the September 12, 2010, edition of the Transit Guide and provide outreach in advance as well as customer assistance to those affected by the changes.

Next Steps

Following the public hearing, and assuming that no significant issues are raised that require additional staff analysis, the staff recommendation along with a summary of key comments made by the public, for a FasTrak toll discount for carpool vehicles and an increase in the multi-axle vehicle toll on the Golden Gate Bridge, will be presented for consideration at the Finance-Auditing Committee meeting on Friday, May 28, 2010. The staff recommendation for transit service changes will be presented at a Special Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2010. If approved, the Committees' recommendations will be referred to the Board of Directors for action at its regular meeting on Friday, May 28, 2010.