# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RCTC 91 EXPRESS LANES AND 15 EXPRESS LANES TOLL POLICY RESOLUTIONS

# ELIMINATION OF CLEAN AIR/ZERO EMISSION DISCOUNT FOR EXPRESS LANES RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) at its following regularly scheduled meeting:

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2025 County of Riverside Administrative Center 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor Board Room Riverside, California 92501

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on proposed Resolution No. 25-006, "Resolution of the Riverside County Transportation Commission Adopting the Amended Interstate 15 Express Lanes Toll Policy Goals and Toll Policies" and proposed Resolution No. 25-007, "Resolution of the Riverside County Transportation Commission Adopting the Amended RCTC 91 Express Lane Toll Policy and Toll Schedule." The public is invited to attend and participate at the public hearing.

A copy of proposed Resolution 25-006, proposed Resolution 25-007, the proposed 15 Express Lanes Goals and Toll Policies, and the proposed 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule are available for review at www.rctc.org. For questions or comments regarding the proposed Resolutions, please call 951-787-7141. Any person unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments to the Clerk of the Board via email at <a href="mailto:info@rctc.org">info@rctc.org</a>. Written comments received by September 2, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. will be included in the agenda report; all written comments received after the deadline will be presented at the public hearing.

By: Lisa Mobley, Clerk of the Board

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-007**

# RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ADOPTING THE AMENDED RCTC 91 EXPRESS LANES TOLL POLICY AND TOLL SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (the "Commission") has been, in accordance with its legislative and regulatory authority, operating two tolled Express Lanes in Riverside County located between the Orange County Line and Interstate 15 ("RCTC 91 Express Lanes");

**WHEREAS**, the Commission adopted its original RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy on June 7, 2012;

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted an Amended and Restated RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy on October 10, 2018;

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted the RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule to implement Dynamic Pricing as defined therein and to make changes to the toll discount policy on January 11, 2023 ("Toll Policy");

**WHEREAS**, the Commission now desires to amend the Toll Policy to eliminate the discount offered to qualified Zero Emission Vehicles ("ZEVs") to take effect as follows:

- (i) As of October 1, 2025, 91 Express Lanes account holders will no longer able to register vehicles for the ZEV discount;
- (iii) Discounts for tolled transactions on the RCTC 91 Express Lanes will cease to be provided once the required toll system changes have been completed and a 30-day notification of a change in the 91 Express Lanes account agreement to eliminate the ZEV discount has been provided to 91 Express Lanes account holders and notification of elimination of the discount has been posted on the 91 Express Lanes website, which is anticipated to occur on or before January 1, 2026, at which time the ZEV discount will cease to be provided.

# NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Riverside County Transportation Commission as follows:

- Section 1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution as though fully set forth herein.
- Section 2. In accordance with the findings set forth above and in the staff report accompanying this Resolution, the Riverside County Transportation Commission hereby adopts the Amended RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule ("Amended Toll Policy") attached as Exhibit A, to be effective as follows:
  - (i) As of October 1, 2025, 91 Express Lanes account holders will no longer be able to register vehicles for the ZEV discount;
  - (ii) Discounts for tolled transactions on the 91 Express Lanes will remain in effect until the required toll system changes have been completed and a 30-day notification of a change in the 91 Express Lanes account agreement to eliminate the ZEV discount has been provided to 91 Express Lanes account holders and notification of elimination of the discount has been posted on the 91 Express Lanes website, which is anticipated to occur on or before January 1, 2026, at which time the ZEV discount will cease to be provided, and the Amended Toll Policy shall take full effect.

[Signatures on following page]

# SIGNATURE PAGE TO RESOLUTION NO. 25-007

# RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ADOPTING THE AMENDED RCTC 91 EXPRESS LANES TOLL POLICY AND TOLL SCHEDULE

APPROVED AND AD	OPTED this, 2025.
	Karen Spiegel, Chair
	Riverside County Transportation
	Commission
ATTEST:	
Lisa Mobley	
Clerk of the Board	

# **EXHIBIT A**

# AMENDED RCTC 91 EXPRESS LANES TOLL POLICY AND TOLL SCHEDULE

[attached behind this page]

## RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule

#### Goals

The goals of the RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule are to:

- Provide a safe, reliable, and predictable commute for 91 Express Lanes customers;
- Optimize vehicle throughput at free flow speeds;
- Pay debt service and maintain debt service coverage;
- Increase average vehicle occupancy;
- Balance capacity and demand to serve customers who pay tolls as well as carpoolers with three or more persons who are offered discounted tolls;
- Generate sufficient revenue to sustain the financial viability of the RCTC 91 Express Lanes;
- Ensure all covenants in the Financing Documents are met; and
- Provide net revenues for State Route 91 corridor improvements.

#### **Definitions**

Abnormal Traffic – when traffic volumes vary from those of a prior period due to a holiday, incident, construction, or other atypical occurrence.

Dynamic Pricing – The setting of a toll in real-time based on level of traffic congestion and other factors.

Emergency – A national, state, or local declared state of emergency or other emergency situation that impacts toll operations.

Inflation Factor – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index adjuster for the region from January to December of the previous calendar year that will be applied annually to the Minimum Toll Rate.

Minimum Toll Rate – The lowest toll per trip that the Pricing Algorithm can assign.

Pricing Algorithm – The methodology by which tolls are set that aims to manage demand for the express lanes by adjusting tolls using real-time and historic traffic data.

Trip – A unique combination of entry and exit points on the 91 Express Lanes.

Trip Minimum Toll Rate – Established by multiplying the Minimum Toll Rate per mile by the number of miles for each trip and rounded up to the nearest \$.05.

## **Dynamic Pricing Principles and Parameters**

- The 91 Express Lanes will use Dynamic Pricing to set toll rates to optimize vehicle throughput at free flow speeds consistent with the goals in this RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule.
- 2. A Pricing Algorithm which considers traffic volume, density, travel speed, travel time, flow of traffic, and historical traffic patterns will be used to determine the toll rate.
- 3. The Pricing Algorithm will establish a toll rate for each 91 Express Lanes Trip.
- 4. The toll rate will change as frequently as needed to maintain desired traffic conditions, but not more frequently than every three minutes; and
- 5. The toll rate could change in increments up to \$3.00 per Trip.

#### **Minimum Toll Rates**

Minimum Toll Rates were initially established based on the rate assumed in the traffic and revenue study used to finance the 91 Express Lanes Project. The Minimum Toll Rates have been adjusted by the inflation factor each year on July 1. The Minimum Toll Rates will be adjusted annually, effective each July 1, by the Inflation Factor and rounded to the nearest 5 cents. The Minimum Toll Rates in Figure 1 will be adjusted by the Inflation Factor on July 1, 2023. When a toll rate is in effect it shall never be less than the Minimum Toll Rate.

Figure 1 Minimum Toll Rate Schedule (effective July 1, 2022)

Westbound		
McKinley St. To County Line	\$1.75	
No. I-15 Magnolia to County Line	\$2.00	
So. 15 Express Lane at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street to County Line	\$2.80	

Eastbound		
County Line to McKinley St.	\$1.95	
County Line to So. I-15 at		
Magnolia	\$2.20	
County Line to No. 15		
Express Lane at Second		
Street	\$2.85	

#### **Toll Rates**

Toll rates will be determined in real-time based on the level of traffic congestion and other factors consistent with Dynamic Pricing. There is no maximum toll rate. The goals of this RCTC 91 Express Lanes Toll Policy and Toll Schedule are to optimize person throughput in the corridor while meeting debt obligations. This balances throughput and revenue thereby providing the

flexibility to better match lane supply with user demand. This flexibility in the maximum toll rate also supports the creditworthiness of the 91 Express Lanes and ensures the Commission's ability to meet its operating and debt obligations.

## **Displaying Toll Rates**

- 1. Toll rates will be posted on overhead signs in advance of each 91 Express Lanes entrance
- 2. Each toll rate sign will include toll rates to the posted destination.
- 3. The customer will be charged the toll posted at the time they passed the toll rate sign.
- 4. Should the toll rate sign not be able to display tolls for any reason then the historical rate for the same time period will be posted.

## **Abnormal Traffic Conditions or Emergencies and Suspension of Tolling**

A temporary toll schedule may be implemented, which may include the suspension of tolling, during Abnormal Traffic or Emergencies.

#### **Discounts**

The following vehicles, which have a valid FasTrak account, will travel for free in the 91 Express Lanes except for Monday through Fridays between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the eastbound direction when they will pay 50% of the toll:

- 1) Vehicles with three or more persons (HOV3+) when using the dedicated 3+ lane; and
- 2) Vehicles with disabled plates that are registered to a 91 Express Lanes account and have provided the Department of Motor Vehicles registration indicating that the vehicle is registered with a disabled plate.

Notwithstanding (3) above, vehicles registered to a disabled veteran or other veteran statuses as included in Assembly Bill 2949, who have provided proof of such by submitting their Department of Motor Vehicles registration to the agency that holds their FasTrak account, will travel for free in the 91 Express Lanes. The list of qualifying veteran statuses includes the following:

- Disabled veteran
- Pearl Harbor survivor
- Former Prisoner of War
- Congressional Medal of Honor
- Purple Heart Recipient
- Army Medal of Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross

#### **Financing Requirements**

RCTC shall charge and collect tolls that generate enough revenue to maintain the debt service coverage ratios as required in the financing documents and to operate and maintain the RCTC 91 Express Lanes in a safe condition in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.