



## **Q&A: I-25 and US 36 ExpressLanes - New Proposed Tolls and Fees**

*March 3, 2015*

### **Q: Why is Plenary Roads Denver (PRD) proposing new toll rates and fees for I-25 and US 36 Express Lanes?**

**A:** There are a few reasons PRD is proposing new rates. Among them are:

- As the US 36 and I-25 Express Lane concessionaire, PRD must be able to provide a reliable, safe service and ensure reliable travel times for carpools, solo drivers, the Regional Transportation District buses in the lanes. The new rates enable them to employ principles of supply and demand to meet these requirements.
- Collecting tolls via an ExpressToll Pass is digital and efficient and guarantees that a person doesn't evade paying a toll. Tracking and collecting tolls through license plate readers is more costly and cumbersome. The new rates reflect the cost difference of administering these two toll payment methods. They also include calculations based on toll evasion, as there are individuals who choose to cheat the system by not paying their license plate bill.
- The new rates and fees also provide drivers with an incentive to secure an ExpressToll Pass, while still providing drivers a choice if they don't want to create an ExpressToll account.

### **Q: Why are License Plate Toll (LPT) rates so much higher than ExpressToll rates?**

**A:** While the technology keeps improving each year, the process between capturing a photo of a license plate and eventually collecting a toll remains costly to administer. In fact, many states don't offer LPT and instead impose a penalty, treating it as a violation.

CDOT and HPTE wants vehicle owners to set up an ExpressToll Account and get a pass. It will save them money and ensure they have a more affordable choice if they want to use the lanes.

### **Q: What are the changes in for AM & PM Peak Time I-25 Charges:**

**A:** The changes that will be seen on the I-25 Express Lanes during peak hours show clearly why setting up an ExpressToll account will give commuters significant savings:

CURRENT TOLLS – WITH EXPRESSTOLL PASS		
	Current Toll	New Toll (as of 3/16/15)
Southbound I-25   7:15-8:15 a.m.	\$4.45	\$4.65
Northbound I-25   4:30-6:00 p.m.		

CURRENT TOLLS AND FEES – WITH LICENSE PLATE TOLLING						
	Current Toll	Current License Plate Fee	Current Total	New Toll	New License Plate Fee	New Fee Total
Southbound I-25   7:15-8:15 a.m.	\$4.45	\$1.10	\$5.55	\$4.65	\$2.33	\$6.98
Northbound I-25   4:30-6:00 p.m.						

When Phase 1 of the US 36 Express Lanes opens in mid-summer 2015, drivers choosing to use an ExpressToll pass will continue to save money on tolls:

- Southbound morning peak time drivers from Interlocken to Denver will be charged \$7.75 with an ExpressToll pass and \$13.83 using LPT.
- Northbound afternoon peak time drivers from Denver to Interlocken will be charged \$6.85 compared to \$12.53 with LPT.

For a detailed table with tolls and charges for your unique commute, please see our website.

**Q: Why is the LPT rate so much higher on I25- especially during peak time - than other tolls?**

**A:** For every LPT toll, our partners have costs to recoup which are much higher than electronic or ExpressToll tolls. These charges are passed along to our customers who choose to use LPT over a more economical choice of ExpressToll pass.

CDOT and HPTE urge our customers to set up an ExpressToll account and get a pass, which will save money for everyone. And as a reminder, the general purpose lanes are always open and toll-free to drivers.

**Q: If approved, when would the new rates go into effect?**

**A:** March 16 for I-25 Express Lanes; Mid-summer for US 36 Express Lanes Phase 1.

**Q: How will the drivers be notified?**

**A:** The large, overhead Variable Message Signs (VMS) on I-25 and US 36 are updated in real-time with new rates so drivers will know before they enter the lanes exactly how much they will be paying. We are also using all the communication tools at CDOT's disposal to spread the word about these changes.

**Q: Is carpooling still free?**

**A:** Yes, carpooling will be allowed still (HOV2+) in the designated lane for I-25 North. Once Phase 1 of US 36 ExpressLanes opens, drivers must set up an ExpressToll account and install the switchable transponder to use the lane for free.

Also, no later than January 2017, all carpool lanes will require TWO passengers and a driver (HOV 3+). Again, this change is to help ensure the ExpressLanes provide users with reliable travel times and levels of service.

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