

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-01

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND MASTER ORDINANCE 2010, AS AMENDED,
TO REVISE BRIDGE TOLLS**

May 28, 2010

THIS ORDINANCE is adopted with reference to the following facts and circumstances which are found and declared by the Board of Directors (Board) of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District):

1. In May of 2009, the Board convened a Financial Planning Advisory Committee to develop a long-term deficit reduction plan. That effort resulted in the adoption of a Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Financial Plan for Achieving Long-Term Financial Stability ("Plan") by the Board in October 2009, which identified specific initiatives to reduce the District's projected financial deficit of \$132 Million over the next five years. Among the initiatives identified in the Plan was the establishment of a carpool toll.

2. The Bay Area Toll Authority, which administers the toll revenue from the seven state-owned toll bridges in the San Francisco Bay Area, has recently adopted toll increases consisting of a toll on carpool vehicles and increased tolls for multi-axle vehicles. These toll increases are effective July 1, 2010.

3. At its February 2010 meeting, the Board authorized staff to begin the public process for implementing a toll increase, consisting of a proposed carpool toll and a toll increase for multi-axle vehicles. The District conducted extensive outreach to notify the public about planned community open houses and public hearings.

4. In April of 2010, the District held three informal open houses and on May 12 and May 14, 2010, the District held two public hearings to provide background information, answer questions, and elicit public comment on the proposal to establish a toll for carpools and increase multi-axle vehicle tolls. Staff presented information and received feedback regarding the proposed toll adjustments at all of the open houses and public hearings listed above. At the close of the public hearing period on May 14, 2010, 100 comments offered by 80 individuals and organizations were received by the District. A summary of the comments is included in the May 28, 2010, staff report.

5. The May 28, 2010, staff report recommended that the Finance-Auditing Committee take action to approve the following toll adjustments:

(a) Establish a carpool toll calculated at 50% of the cash toll for two-axle vehicles (i.e., \$3.00 for FY 2011), effective July 1, 2010. The proposed carpool toll will apply to two-axle vehicles with three or more occupants, motorcycles, and buses between the hours of 5:00 and 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Vehicles will be required to be registered with a valid FasTrak® account in good standing, and stop in a staffed lane to verify eligibility for the reduced rate; otherwise, the regular cash or FasTrak® toll rate will apply. The proposed carpool toll

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will not apply on New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, which are the same days that toll-free passage of carpools are not available under the current policy.

(b) Clean air vehicles with white California DMV Clean Air decals that currently qualify for toll-free passage during the District's carpool hours will qualify for the discounted FasTrak® carpool toll rate as long as California Vehicle Code Sections 5205.5 and 21655.9 remain in effect (these laws are scheduled to expire January 1, 2011). Vehicles will be required to be registered with a valid FasTrak® account in good standing and stop in a staffed lane for verification; otherwise, the regular cash or FasTrak® toll rate will apply. Vehicles with yellow California DMV Clean Air decals do not currently receive toll-free passage and will continue to be treated as regular vehicles.

(c) Increase the toll rates for multi-axle vehicles with three or more axles, consisting of a cash toll rate of \$6 per axle, capped at a maximum cash toll of \$42, and a discounted FasTrak® toll rate of \$5 per axle, capped at a maximum FasTrak® rate of \$35, to be implemented in two phases - the first increase to take effect July 1, 2011, and the second increase to take effect July 1, 2012.

6. On May 28, 2010, a meeting of the Finance-Auditing Committee was held to consider a final recommendation to the Board for the proposed toll increases. Following presentation of the staff report, review of the record of public participation, and after receiving further public comment, the Finance-Auditing Committee recommended to the Board adoption of the toll increases as recommended by staff.

7. The Board has considered all comments, the General Manager's report and the recommendations of the Finance-Auditing Committee. The Board finds that the recommended plan best fulfills the District's mission, policy objectives and financial requirements for the following reasons:

(a) It maintains a toll incentive for carpools and clean air vehicles, while requiring such vehicles to financially support District operations and maintenance.

(b) It aligns the Golden Gate Bridge with industry norms regarding discount toll policies and eliminates multi-axle vehicle toll disparities between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay Area's state-owned bridges.

(c) It will raise revenue vitally needed to support proper maintenance and operation of the Golden Gate Bridge and support provision of public transit service in the Golden Gate Corridor, while mitigating the extent to which reserves must be drawn upon and allowing the District to keep an adequate level of reserves.

(d) It facilitates moving forward with essential capital projects for the maintenance and restoration of the Golden Gate Bridge on a timely basis.

(e) It strikes an appropriate balance among the competing concerns that have been expressed by the District's constituents, and takes into account the initiatives underway to reduce expense and to pursue other sources of funding to achieve long-term financial stability for the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

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Section 1. Section II, “Golden Gate Bridge and Approaches,” Subsection B, “Bridge Toll Rates” and Subsection K, “Exemptions from Tolls,” of Master Ordinance 2010 are replaced in their entirety with the following:

B. BRIDGE TOLL RATES

1. GENERAL. The Bridge toll rates, southbound only, for all vehicles shall be based on the total number of axles of the vehicle, or connected combination of vehicles, as follows:

Effective through June 30, 2011:

Vehicle Type	Cash Toll	FasTrak® Toll
2-Axle	\$6.00	\$5.00
3-Axles	\$9.00	\$7.50
4-Axles	\$12.00	\$10.00
5-Axles	\$15.00	\$12.50
6-Axles	\$18.00	\$15.00
7-Axles	\$21.00	\$17.50
8-Axles	\$24.00	\$20.00
9-Axles	\$27.00	\$22.50
10-Axles	\$30.00	\$25.00
11-Axles	\$33.00	\$27.50
12-Axles	\$36.00	\$30.00

Effective July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012:

Vehicle Type	Cash Toll	FasTrak® Toll
2-Axle	\$6.00	\$5.00
3-Axles	\$13.00	\$11.25
4-Axles	\$18.00	\$15.00
5-Axles	\$22.00	\$18.75
6-Axles	\$27.00	\$22.50
7-Axles or More	\$31.00	\$26.25

Effective July 1, 2012:

Vehicle Type	Cash Toll	FasTrak® Toll
2-Axle	\$6.00	\$5.00
3-Axles	\$18.00	\$15.00
4-Axles	\$24.00	\$20.00
5-Axles	\$30.00	\$25.00
6-Axles	\$36.00	\$30.00
7-Axles or More	\$42.00	\$35.00

2. **REDUCED TOLL FOR DESIGNATED VEHICLES DURING COMMUTE HOURS.** A reduced toll rate for designated vehicles, calculated at 50% of the base cash toll for two-axle vehicles, is available between the hours of 5:00 and 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding the following holidays: New Year’s Day; Presidents’ Day (third Monday in February); Memorial Day (last Monday in May); Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day. The reduced FasTrak® toll applies to carpools, motorcycles, and buses. All vehicles that qualify for the reduced toll shall be registered with a FasTrak® account in good standing. Vehicles must stop in a staffed toll lane to verify eligibility in order to qualify for the reduced toll rate.

Only vehicles that bear a DMV issued WHITE Clean Air Vehicle decal, that allows the vehicle to be operated by a single occupant in High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are eligible for the reduced toll, for as long as California Vehicle Code Sections 5205.5 and 21655.9 remain in effect. Vehicles bearing the YELLOW Clean Air Vehicle are not eligible for the reduced toll.

3. **TOLL RATES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.** The applicable toll for a two-axle vehicle in which an eligible person with disabilities is either the operator or a passenger shall be 50% of the base cash toll for two-axle vehicles, upon presentation of a valid District-issued identification card by the person with disabilities. The discount toll is not available for vehicles with more than two axles. The provisions of Section I.B.1, “Bridge Discount for Persons with Disabilities,” shall apply.

F. EXEMPTIONS FROM TOLLS

No toll shall be charged to the following classifications of traffic:

1. Vehicles of members of the California Highway Patrol, while traveling in official patrol vehicles and on duty policing the Bridge and District facilities.
2. Vehicles of the United States Government required to be passed free of charge under the terms of Public Law 255-78th Congress.
3. Pedestrians and bicyclists on East and West sidewalks.
4. Vehicles in funeral procession of a person who dies while on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States.
5. Vehicles of the United States Park Police while crossing the Bridge on official business.
6. Vehicles of officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Coast Guard, while engaged in the performance of their official duties, with the understanding that civilian Coast Guard employees are excluded from the toll-free privilege; with the further understanding that the U.S. Coast Guard will be subject to the same rules that apply to

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other branches of the military with regard to toll-free privileges on the Golden Gate Bridge.

7. Buses operated by the Municipal Railway of the City and County of San Francisco, on Saturdays and Sundays, when providing scheduled service to Forts Cronkite and Baker within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
8. Vehicles of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), with government license plates, while crossing the Bridge on official business, with the understanding that commute trips are excluded from the toll-free privilege, that all GGNRA employees utilizing toll-free passage must obtain a District photo ID card at a cost of \$6.00 per card that must be handed to the toll collector each trip, that all GGNRA vehicles must be equipped with ETC transponders to receive toll-free passage, and that any GGNRA employee who misuses this privilege will have this privilege revoked, and with the further understanding that staff will maintain a computer record of the time and date of each toll-free crossing authorized by this provision, and staff will monitor such use and report periodically to the Board.
9. Emergency vehicles such as police, fire, and ambulances when responding to incidents on the Bridge and its approaches, or police vehicles when involved in pursuits that require crossing the Bridge.

To receive the toll exemption, qualified vehicles, with the exception of emergency vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles, must stop in a staffed lane to allow the toll collector to classify the transaction correctly.

Section 2. The Board finds that the bridge tolls effected by this Ordinance are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code because they are for the purpose of: (a) meeting operating expenses, (b) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials, (c) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, and (d) obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas; and directs the General Manager to file a Notice of Exemption in the offices of the clerk of the City and County of San Francisco and the county clerks of the Counties of Marin and Sonoma.

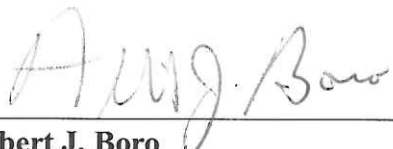
Section 3. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be July 1, 2010.

Section 4. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.


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ADOPTED this 28th day of May 2010, by the following vote of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors:

- AYES (17):** Directors Brown, Campos, Chu, Cochran, Elsbernd, Kerns, McGlashan, Moylan, Newhouse Segal, Pahre, Sanders, Snyder, Sobel and Stroeh; Second Vice President Eddie; First Vice President Reilly; President Boro
- NOES (0):** None
- ABSENT (2):** Directors Dufty and Grosboll



Albert J. Boro
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST: 

Janet S. Tarantino
Secretary of the District