

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2010

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TOLL RATES SET FOR THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE ICC

Rates at Low End of Approved Tolling Plan

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (**MDTA**) today announced the toll schedule for the first five-and-a-half-mile segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 between I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in Rockville/Olney.

When the first segment opens in late 2010/early 2011, drivers of cars and light trucks will pay \$1.45 during Peak hours, \$1.15 during Off-peak times and \$0.60 Overnight to travel the ICC. The toll schedule is derived from a two-axle Peak toll rate of \$0.25/mile, Off-peak rate of \$0.20/mile and Overnight rate of \$0.10/mile. These toll rates for the first segment are at the low end of the tolling plan approved last December by the **MDTA's** Board.

“In response to public comment last fall, I am pleased that we can offer first-segment toll rates at the lowest end of the approved tolling plan,” said **MDTA** Chairman and Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. “Marylanders gain immediate benefits and time savings by using the first ICC segment. These toll rates also will provide citizens an opportunity to become familiar with the highway’s all-electronic tolling and variable pricing.”

The ICC will be a variably priced toll facility in order to manage congestion and deliver reliable travel times to motorists. Higher tolls will be charged during peak-travel times (Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls will be charged when traffic volumes are lower. Raising the toll rate during a particular period generally reduces the number of vehicles using the highway resulting in less congestion and fewer delays. ICC tolls will be collected electronically at highway speeds using *E-ZPass*® technology. There will be no toll booths or cash toll collection on the ICC, Maryland’s first all-electronic toll facility.

“Today, a trip between Shady Grove Metro station and Georgia Avenue on local roads during rush hour takes approximately 22 to 23 minutes. Using the first segment of the ICC when it opens, this same trip will take just seven minutes at 55 mph,” said **MDTA** Executive Secretary Ronald L. Freeland. “With a Peak cost to most users of \$1.45 per trip, the ICC is providing a reliable and affordable alternative to heavily traveled local roads when you need it most.”

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ADD ONE: TOLL RATES SET FOR THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE ICC

To manage travel demand and congestion and to help meet revenue needs, ICC toll rates will be reviewed periodically – likely quarterly – and may be adjusted within the tolling plan approved by the **MDTA** Board. The plan’s approved mileage-rate ranges for two-axle vehicles are as follows:

| Pricing Period | Approved mileage-rate ranges (two-axle vehicles) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Peak Period Mon – Fri: 6 – 9am; 4 – 7pm (excluding Federal holidays) | \$0.25/mile – \$0.35/mile |
| Off-Peak Period Mon – Fri: 5 – 6am; 9am – 4pm; 7 – 11pm Sat & Sun: 5am – 11pm | \$0.20/mile – \$0.30/mile |
| Overnight Period Daily 11pm – 5am | \$0.10/mile – \$0.30/mile |

Please refer to the Public Notice included with this release for the ICC First-Segment Toll Schedule (I-370 to MD 97). Visit www.mdtamaryland.gov/TollFacilities/ICC.html for additional tolling information. The next segment of the ICC, under construction between Georgia Avenue and I-95 in Laurel, is scheduled to be completed in late 2011/early 2012. The **MDTA** will determine the toll rates for the 16 miles of the ICC to I-95 closer to the opening of this segment. These rates will still fall within the approved tolling plan.

Traveling the ICC without a valid *E-ZPass* account will result in a Notice of Toll Due being sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. The notice will include the charge for the toll, plus a \$3.00 Notice of Toll Due service charge for each transaction. This policy is in effect at the **MDTA**’s seven other toll facilities. To sign up for *E-ZPass*, visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll online or get a list of *E-ZPass* “On the Go” retail locations, including local Motor Vehicle Administration offices in Gaithersburg and Beltsville. *E-ZPass* Stop-in Centers are also located at most Maryland toll facilities.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is managing ICC construction. Once construction is complete, the **MDTA** will own, operate and maintain this new variably priced toll facility. While the ICC will be Maryland’s first variably priced toll facility, other states, including Virginia, California and Colorado, already use variable pricing to provide more reliable travel times and maximize transportation capacity. The ICC toll rates are comparable to, and generally lower than, these other variably priced tolling facilities around the country.

(NOTE: MDTA Executive Secretary Ron Freeland will be available for media interviews from 12 noon to 3 p.m. today at the ICC Project Office in Beltsville. Interested media should call 410-537-1017.)

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is an independent State agency that finances, owns and operates the State’s seven toll facilities. The MDTA’s eight Members, appointed by the Governor with consent of the State Senate, serve as the agency’s policy-setting and governing body. Maryland’s Secretary of Transportation serves as MDTA Chairman.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On June 11, 2010, the Executive Secretary of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), the State agency that owns and operates Maryland's toll facilities, announced the toll schedule for the first 5.65 mile segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 between I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97/Georgia Avenue in Rockville/Olney, expected to open late 2010/early 2011. This announcement follows the December 17, 2009, approval by the MDTA Board of the ICC tolling plan (mileage rate ranges, pricing periods, rounding rule and the minimum toll).

The ICC will be a variably priced toll facility, with higher tolls during peak-travel times (Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls when traffic volumes are lower. The ICC toll schedule, set at the low end of the approved tolling plan, is derived from a two-axle peak mileage rate of \$0.25/mile, off-peak rate of \$0.20/mile and overnight rate of \$0.10/mile. Visit www.mdta.maryland.gov/TollFacilities/ICC.html for additional tolling information.

ICC First Segment Toll Schedule (I-370 to MD 97)

| | 2-axle | 3-axle | 4-axle | 5-axle | 6 ⁺ -axle |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| PEAK* (Mon – Fri, 6 - 9am; 4 - 7pm) – excluding Federal Holidays | \$1.45 | \$4.25 | \$6.35 | \$8.50 | \$10.60 |
| OFF-PEAK* (Mon – Fri, 5 - 6am; 9am - 4pm; 7 - 11pm; Sat & Sun 5am – 11pm) | \$1.15 | \$3.40 | \$5.10 | \$6.80 | \$8.50 |
| OVERNIGHT (11pm - 5am Daily)* | \$0.60 | \$1.70 | \$2.55 | \$3.40 | \$4.25 |

* Pricing periods may vary by up to 60 minutes earlier and later. MDTA will provide at least 10 days notice of any change to the pricing periods that may occur once travel patterns are assessed.

The MDTA will review the toll schedule periodically and may adjust the schedule to help manage traffic congestion on the ICC and to help meet revenue needs. The MDTA will provide at least 10 days notice of any change to the toll schedule that is within the approved mileage-rate ranges [peak (\$0.25 – \$0.35); off-peak (\$0.20 – \$0.30); overnight (\$0.10 – \$0.30) as of Dec. 17, 2009]. Future changes to the mileage-rate ranges require a 60-day public comment period.

The next segment of the ICC, under construction between Georgia Avenue and I-95 in Laurel, is scheduled to be completed in late 2011/early 2012. The MDTA will determine the toll rates for the 16 miles of the ICC to I-95 closer to the opening of this segment. These rates will fall within the approved tolling plan.

Additional Information:

ICC tolls will be collected electronically using *E-ZPass*[®]. There will be no cash toll collection on the ICC. Traveling the ICC without a valid *E-ZPass* account will result in a Notice of Toll Due being sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. The notice will include the charge for the toll plus a \$3 Notice of Toll Due service charge for each transaction. To sign up for *E-ZPass*, visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll online or get a list of *E-ZPass* “On the Go” retail locations, including local Motor Vehicle Administration offices in Gaithersburg and Beltsville.



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LEGEND

Yellow: I-370 at Shady Grove Road – MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) opens Fall 2010

Green: MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) – I-95 at Laurel opens late Fall 2011/early 2012

Blue: Future

** Eastbound ICC/MD 200 can be accessed from Briggs Chaney Road. Briggs Chaney Road may only be accessed from westbound ICC/MD 200.

○ ICC/MD 200 entry/exit points