

## Dulles Toll Road 2022 Toll Rate Setting Process FAQ

### **1. *Why is the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority responsible for the operation of the Dulles Toll Road?***

The Commonwealth of Virginia transferred responsibility for operating the Dulles Toll Road to the Airports Authority in 2008 to facilitate the financing and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail (Silver Line) Project and other transportation improvements in the Dulles Corridor.

### **2. *Why is the Airports Authority proposing to increase toll rates?***

Toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road are set at levels that will produce revenues sufficient to fund the operating and maintenance costs of the Toll Road and the annual debt service expenses on Dulles Toll Road revenue bonds issued to finance improvements to the Toll Road and approximately 50 percent of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail (Silver Line) Project.

The last DTR toll increase was in 2019. If the planned toll increase for 2023 is implemented, it is anticipated that the toll rates will not have to be increased again until 2028.

### **3. *Who makes the final decision on how much to raise tolls?***

Under agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Airports Authority establishes toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road, in consultation with the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee (DCAC). Members of the 17-member Airports Authority Board are appointed by the Governors of Virginia and Maryland, the Mayor of Washington, D.C., and the President of the United States.

Members of the eight-person DCAC are representatives of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and the Airports Authority. The DCAC meets at least twice annually and advises the Airports Authority's Board of Directors when the Board is considering changes in toll rates.

### **4. *What is the purpose of the public hearings?***

The Airports Authority is conducting two public hearings, one virtual and one in-person, to inform the public and solicit comments about proposed amendments to its regulations. These amendments, which would go into effect January 1, 2023, would (i) increase the toll rates for use of the Dulles Toll Road, and (ii) authorize collection of administrative fees to recover costs incurred by the Airports Authority to invoice toll road customers who use the pay-by-plate (license plate imaging) toll payment option.

The complete text of the proposed amendments to Sections 10.1 and 10.3 of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Regulations is available at:

<http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process>

In addition to seeking comments on the proposed amendments, the Airports Authority is inviting comments on the following:

(1) *Environmental Sustainability Initiatives.* Converting to all-electronic toll collection, for example, will reduce harmful emissions from vehicles idling at toll plazas. Are there other potential environmental initiatives related to the operation or maintenance of the Dulles Toll Road that should be explored?

(2) *DTR Customer Incentives.* Would offering toll credits or other financial incentives be an effective way to encourage Dulles Toll Road customers to carpool or travel during off-peak hours?

**5. How much will the toll rates increase?**

The table below shows the current toll rate for each vehicle class and the toll rate proposed to be implemented on January 1, 2023. No additional toll rate increases are anticipated prior to January 1, 2028.

Vehicle Class	Mainline Toll Plaza		Ramp Toll Plazas	
	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
2-Axle	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$2.00
3-Axle	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$4.00
4-Axle	\$7.75	\$9.25	\$3.50	\$4.50
5-Axle	\$9.00	\$10.50	\$4.00	\$5.00
6 or more axles	\$10.25	\$11.75	\$4.50	\$5.50

**6. Will the toll rates change during peak travel hours?**

No. The toll rates are fixed. There are no current plans to vary the toll rates based on the time of day or the level of congestion on the Dulles Toll Road.

**7. When and where will public hearings be held?**

**Virtual Public Hearing - Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

To attend the virtual meeting from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or an Android device, please go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551161067?pwd=SDZXZHFZT1BMSmVTSHVJYTkRZk9hdz09>

Passcode: **174277**

To join the Zoom Meeting by telephone, dial **1 (301) 715-8592**.

The Webinar ID is **865 5116 1067** and the Passcode is **174277**

The virtual public hearing will begin with a presentation on the transition to all-electronic tolling on the Dulles Toll Road and payment options for customers who do not obtain E-ZPass transponders. The second presentation will describe the toll rate setting process for the Dulles Toll Road. Information will also be provided on DTR operations, capital improvements in the Dulles Corridor funded with toll revenue, and the financing and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

There will be opportunities to submit questions during the virtual meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to submit comments on the proposed amendments to the regulations at the in-person hearing, online or by mail.

A recording of the virtual public hearing will be posted at <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process> shortly after the hearing.

**In-Person Public Hearing - Monday, July 18, 2022 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Washington Dulles Airport Marriott, Salons A, B, C  
45020 Aviation Drive, Dulles, VA 20166**

There will be no formal presentation, but the information provided in the virtual public hearing will be available for discussion in an open-house format. Attendees will be able to visit several information stations to learn about the proposed regulatory amendments, the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail project. Attendees will be able to provide written comments or provide comments to an official meeting stenographer.

The public hearings will be conducted in English. A Spanish translator and sign language interpreter will be available on-site for the in-person hearing. If you need translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend or participate in the public hearings, please leave a voicemail at (703) 253-5896 at least 72 hours in advance of the public hearing you plan to attend.

**8. How can I submit a public comment on the rate proposals?**

The public comment period on the proposed amendments is July 11 through August 10, 2022. Options to provide input include:

- Submit comments using an online comment form available at <https://www.dullestollroad.com/toll-setting-process> beginning July 11, 2022.
- Submit comments at the in-person public hearing by completing a comment form in writing.
- Submit comments by email to: [dtrcomments2022@hntb.com](mailto:dtrcomments2022@hntb.com)
- Submit comments by mail to: MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB

2900 South Quincy Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22206

- Leave a voicemail at (703) 253-5896

## **9. What happens after the public comment period ends?**

Information provided at the public hearings will be posted on the Airports Authority's website: <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process>

Following the end of the public comment period, briefings on the public's comments will be presented to the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee and appropriate committees of the Airports Authority Board of Directors.

In September, the appropriate committees of the Airports Authority Board of Directors will decide upon the toll rate increases to recommend to the full board, which is expected to vote in November 2022 on the rate increases that would become effective on January 1, 2023.