

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

In 2005, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) received proposals from several private entities seeking the right to collect tolls on and operate the Dulles Toll Road under a long-term concession agreement in return for an upfront payment from those entities that VDOT could use to fund a portion of the construction cost for the extension of Metrorail to Loudoun County. None of the proposals submitted would guarantee the full construction of rail connecting the existing Metro system to Washington Dulles International Airport and beyond into Loudoun County, VA. In March 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia accepted a competing proposal from the Airports Authority under which it would assume the responsibility for operating the Dulles Toll Road, as well as managing the financing and construction of the Metrorail extension (now known as the Metrorail Silver Line project) and other transportation improvements in the Dulles Corridor.

Various agreements detailing the responsibilities of the Airports Authority were negotiated and on November 1, 2008, operational responsibility for the Dulles Toll Road was transferred to the Airports Authority for a term of 50 years.

## 2. Why is the Airports Authority raising tolls?

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 debt service costs on Dulles Toll Road revenue bonds issued to finance improvements to the Toll Road and to assist in financing a significant portion of the Metrorail Silver Line project.

Toll rates have not been changed for the past five years; however, increasing Toll Road debt service costs in 2019 require that toll rates be increased.

## 3. Who makes the decision on whether or not 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. How often have toll rates been raised?

Toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road were first increased by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2005 to generate revenue for mass transit and rail in the Dulles Corridor. Following the Airports Authority's issuance of Toll Road bonds to help finance the Metrorail Silver Line project, toll rates were increased again, starting in 2010 and continuing each year through 2014. Since 2014, toll rates have remained the same, largely because of cost reductions in the project, federal financial assistance for the second phase of the project in the form of a low-interest loan, a \$300 million contribution from the Commonwealth of Virginia to help fund the second phase of the project, and another \$150 million from the Commonwealth to help avoid toll rate increases over the last five years.

## 5. What are the toll rate increases that are now being proposed?

The table below shows the current toll rate for each vehicle class and the toll rate proposed to be implemented on January 1, 2019. No additional toll rate increases are anticipated prior to January 1, 2023.

Vehicle Class	Mainline Toll Plaza		Ramp Toll Plazas	
	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
2-Axle	\$2.50	\$3.25	\$1.00	\$1.50
3-Axle	\$5.00	\$6.50	\$2.00	\$3.00
4-Axle	\$6.25	\$7.75	\$2.50	\$3.50
5-Axle	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$3.00	\$4.00
6 or more axles	\$8.75	\$10.25	\$3.50	\$4.50

## 6. Are any new types of tolls being considered?

No. The Airports Authority is considering adjustments to the fixed toll rates collected along the Dulles Toll Road at the mainline toll plaza and ramp plazas. There are no current plans to set toll rates based on the level of congestion on the Dulles Toll Road.

## 7. What is the Airports Authority's toll-rate setting process in 2018?

- The Airports Authority will hold a public comment period, from July 2 through August 3, on the proposed toll rate increases.
- The Airports Authority will hold three public meetings on the proposed increases -- on July 11, July 17 and July 19.
- Individuals may visit the Airports Authority's website, <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process>, to attend a "virtual public hearing" and provide public comment electronically.
- Following the end of the public comment period, briefings on the public's comments will be presented to the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee.
- In September, the appropriate committees of the Airports Authority Board of Directors will decide upon the toll rate increases to recommend to the Board, which is expected to vote in October on the rates changes that would become effective at the start of 2019.

## 8. What else, in addition to the proposed toll rate increases, are members of the public being invited to comment on?

The Authority is inviting comments on the following topics:

- Whether the proposed increase of \$1.25 in the cost of a typical Dulles Toll Road trip should be allocated as proposed between the ramp and mainline toll plazas (i.e., a 50-cent increase at the ramp plazas and a 75-cent increase at the mainline plaza) or should be allocated in a different manner between the ramp and mainline plazas;
- Whether, at a future date to be determined, the Dulles Toll Road's toll plaza lanes that allow customers to pay in cash should be converted to "E-ZPass only" (or open road tolling), similar to newer toll facilities;
- Whether, at a future date to be determined, credit cards should be accepted in certain Dulles Toll Road toll plaza lanes, similar to the Dulles Greenway and other toll facilities; and
- Whether any other operational improvements should be made to the Dulles Toll Road.

### 9. What is the purpose of public hearings?

A primary purpose of these public meetings is to allow the Airports Authority to provide information regarding the following topics:

- Dulles Toll Road operations and maintenance
- Dulles Corridor Metrorail Silver Line extension project construction update and finance plan
- Allocation of proposed toll rate adjustments for the Dulles Toll Road

These topics will be presented at individual stations with appropriate subject matter experts at each station. While there will not be a “open microphone” comment session, individuals who attend these hearings will be able to provide comment for public record in several ways, including verbal, written paper comment forms or online forms.

Public hearings will have a Spanish translator and sign language interpreter on-site. Individuals wishing translation services for another language should contact the Airports Authority at 703-253-5899 at least 72 hours in advance of the public hearing they plan to attend.

### 10. When and where will public hearings be held?

There will be three public hearings held:

Wednesday, July 11, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Spring Hill Elementary School  
8201 Lewinsville Rd.  
McLean, VA 22102  
Location: school cafeteria

Tuesday, July 17, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
11400 South Lakes Dr.  
Reston, VA 20191  
Location: school cafeteria

Thursday, July 19, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Stone Bridge High School  
43100 Hay Road  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
Location: school cafeteria

### 11. How can I submit a public comment on the rate proposals?

There are four ways to submit a public comment:

- In-person at one of the three public meetings that have been scheduled in McLean, Reston and Ashburn.
- Through the online public comment portal: <http://www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process>.
- Via email to [dtcomments@hntb.com](mailto:dtcomments@hntb.com).
- Mailed during the comment period to:  
MWAA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB  
2900 South Quincy Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22206

### 12. How long is the public comment period open?

The public comment period will run from July 2 through August 3.