



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 23-0369 **Version:** 1 **Name:**

Type: Policy **Status:** Passed

File created: 1/6/2023 **In control:** Commissioners Court

On agenda: 1/10/2023 **Final action:** 1/10/2023

Title: Request by the Toll Road Authority for approval of revised policies related to the setting of toll rates; invoicing and collection of tolls; imposing fines and fees; administrative adjudication hearing procedures; and uniform enforcement on toll lanes operated by the County under certain agreements for tolling services.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 23-0369 TRA-Tolling Policy.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/10/2023	1	Commissioners Court		
1/10/2023	1	Commissioners Court		

Department: Toll Road Authority

Department Head/Elected Official: Roberto Treviño, P.E., Executive Director

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Supplemental RCA

Type of Request: Policy

Project ID (if applicable): N/A

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): N/A

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable): N/A

MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable): N/A

Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: N/A - Goal not applicable to request

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request by the Toll Road Authority for approval of revised policies related to the setting of toll rates; invoicing and collection of tolls; imposing fines and fees; administrative adjudication hearing procedures; and uniform enforcement on toll lanes operated by the County under certain agreements for tolling services.

Background and Discussion:

The previous policies were developed when only cash and automated vehicle identification (AVI), such as EZ Tag, were used at traditional ramp and mainlane toll plazas. Over the years, new segments were added to the HCTRA System that did not include cash collection such as Westpark and Tomball Tollways, or cash collection was eliminated from some legacy segments, namely the Hardy Toll Road and the Ship Channel Bridge. In 2020, triggered by the onset of travel constraints associated with COVID-19 pandemic, cash collection was suspended on all remaining segments of the HCTRA system. These revised policies address the current

operational structure, specifically the elimination of cash tolls in the lanes, and aligns the necessary collection and enforcement procedures, while maintaining existing toll rates.

The Toll Setting Policy establishes toll rates for image-based transactions (which reflect existing toll rates), refines the vehicle classification structure and corresponding toll rates, and provides guidelines for future rate adjustments.

The Toll Invoicing Policy establishes policies and guidelines related to the collection of tolls and other related matters for image-based transactions. It defines the invoicing process, establishes fees, and describes the allowable fee waivers for improved customer service.

The Collections Policy includes an Order Prohibiting the Operation of a Motor Vehicle on a County Project after Failure to Pay Required toll or Charge; imposes fines and fees; and adopts administrative adjudication hearing procedure for Violation of Prohibition to allow remote appearances, reduce hearing fees, and provide for uniform enforcement on toll lanes.

Expected Impact:

Approval of the these polices will enable HCTRA to efficiently implement toll rates, invoicing and collection processes that reflect the current and future operations. It is anticipated these policies will reduce revenue leakage, cover the cost of collecting tolls and improve enforcement along the toll system.

Alternative Options:

No other recommended solution for this identified need.

Alignment with Goal(s):

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Public Health
- Transportation
- Flooding
- Environment
- Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
12/01/2015	1.c.7	Court approval of the Violation Fee Waiver Reduction Policy and revisions to the EZ Tag agreement effective January 1, 2016
06/23/2009	1.d.4	Court approval of clarifications, additional definitions, and modifications to the Toll Rate Setting Policy
06/19/2007	1.a.2	Court approval of a Toll Rate Setting Policy

Location:

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name			
	FY 23	FY 24	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Court Date: January 10, 2023

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date): August 2023 pending Court approval

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Nicole Stutz, Chief of Staff, Harris County Toll Road Authority

Attachments (if applicable): updated policies - Toll Setting Policy, Invoicing Policy, Fine & Fee Schedule, and Order Establishing Uniform Toll Enforcement