



Employee Transponder Usage

November 2011

Overview

- **The Illinois Tollway issues employees transponders for official travel, including daily commute. This has always been the practice at the Illinois Tollway.**
- **Cost analysis for 2011 and 2012. Benefit value will increase with new toll rates in 2012.**
- **Comparison with other public agencies. While other tolling agencies allow free passage, some have recently removed the benefit.**



Average Benefit 2011 and 2012

Year	Participating Employees	Average Benefit
2011	1,156	\$221/participant
2012 (projected)	1,156	\$414/participant

Program Overview

- **The Illinois Tollway issues employees transponders for official travel, including daily commute.**
 - ❑ **Currently, 1,156 use employee transponders (1,598 budgeted headcount).**
 - ❑ **Since 2010, 228 employees have voluntarily stopped using transponders.**
 - ❑ **Currently, foregone revenue estimated at \$255,800 annually. Toll increase is expected to increase this to approximately \$478,300 annually.**
 - ❑ **Currently, 85 percent of employees using employee transponders are union members.**

Program Oversight

- The Illinois Tollway has implemented an audit program to automatically identify any potential abuse of policy.
 - Approximately \$160 per month (cash rate) has been recovered for unauthorized toll usage.
 - Five individuals have been referred to the Illinois Tollway's Office of Inspector General in 2011 for possible misuse.



Other Agency Policies

- **Two-thirds of other E-ZPass toll agencies issue employee transponders for commuting purposes (19 agencies surveyed in September 2011).**

Agencies Offering Transponder Benefit for Commuting	Agencies NOT Offering Transponder Benefit for Commuting
New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT)	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC)
Ohio Turnpike Commission (OTC)	Burlington County Bridge Commission (BCBC)
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MassDOT)	Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA)
Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)	Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)
Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT)	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Maine Turnpike Authority (MeTA)	South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA)
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bridges and Tunnels NYC (MTABT)	Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) City of Chesapeake
New York State Bridges Authority (NYSBA)	
New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA)	
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)	
Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority	
Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ)	



Other Public Agencies

- **CTA provides non-revenue fare cards to employees for free passage. (Subject to collective bargaining agreements and under review.)**
- **RTA does not permit free travel but participates in a benefit plan that allows employees to contribute to the IRS pre-tax transit program for amounts up to equivalent monthly transportation costs.**



Appendix

Other Tolling Agencies

Agency	Allow commuting?	Comments
Burlington County Bridge Commission (BCBC)	No	Significant majority of employees live in New Jersey and do not commute across BCBC bridges.
Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT)	Yes	Only toll operations employees driving to and from work are exempt from paying tolls. All other state employees must pay tolls during their working hours, unless they are on official business in a state vehicle with a non-revenue transponder.
Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA)	No	Employees can report to work without going through a toll plaza. Work vehicles, i.e. maintenance vehicles and police vehicles, have non-revenue passage through the lanes.
Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC)	No	Employees non-revenue account status was eliminated in the summer of 2011.
Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)	No	Policy was changed to eliminate employee toll free passage programs on 8/18/2010 and upheld by New Jersey's Governor.
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MassDOT)	Yes	Some union employees have non-revenue E-ZPass transponders for commuting as part of their union contract.
Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA)	Yes	Each employee is issued a non-revenue transponder for use in commuting or official business travel.
Maine Turnpike Authority (MeTA)	Yes	Each employee is issued on non-revenue transponder for use in commuting or official business travel.
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bridges and Tunnels NYC (MTABT)	Yes	
New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT)	Yes	Per CBA sub-contract, only those plazas which only have toll road access. No free passage if there is a secondary non-toll option to get to a plaza.



Other Tolling Agencies

Agency	Allow commuting?	Comments
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	No	
New York State Bridges Authority (NYSBA)	Yes	
New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA)	Yes	
Ohio Turnpike Commission (OTC)	Yes	Non-revenue transponders are assigned to employees on an as-needed basis. Department head approval is required. The non-revenue transponders may only be used for official Commission business, which is interpreted to include commuting between their primary residence and principal work location. All non-revenue movements are subject to periodic audits.
Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ)	Yes	Yes for non-union employees hired before 10/1/2009. Yes for all union employees. No for all other employees.
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)	Yes	
Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority	Yes	
South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA)	No	Employees with assigned vehicles are non-revenue status during normal working hours.
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) City of Chesapeake	No	Agency building is fully accessible via separate entrance off a public roadway. Employees do not have to travel on their toll road to enter the building.