

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division of Transportation Development  
4201 East Arkansas Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80222  
(303) 757-9525



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, Division of Transportation Development

DATE: August 1, 2013

RE: HOV Policy Recommendation

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**Purpose:** This memo summarizes information regarding HOV discussions for the proposed tolled managed lanes on C-470 from Kipling to I-25.

**Action Requested:** Transportation Commission input and decision on the current HOV 3+ tolled managed lanes policy as it relates to the C-470 Corridor Coalition request.

**Background:** A letter was recently received from the C-470 Corridor Coalition (see attached) articulating the Coalition recommendation that all vehicles (including HOVs) that choose to utilize the proposed tolled managed lanes on C-470 from Kipling to I-25 should pay. The recommendation was agreed upon by the Corridor Coalition Policy Committee at their June 6, 2013 meeting and reflects “considerations of the additional capital and operational costs to accommodate HOVs, the enforcement challenges, and the need in the current funding environment facing the state and local governments to maximize the potential toll revenue.”

The current policy of the Transportation Commission with respect to tolled managed lanes is articulated in TC Resolution 3052, approved on February 21, 2013. Resolution 3052 states that “*as of January 1, 2017 toll-free travel offered to High Occupant Vehicles on tolled managed lanes that are part of the state highway system shall be limited to vehicles with three or more total occupants (HOV 3+).*” Resolution 3052 notes that the “Transportation Commission recognizes the benefits of HOV 3+ to encouraging carpooling and transit use, with resulting reductions in vehicle emissions, to reduce congestion, and improve the safety, capacity, and accessibility of the surface transportation system.”

Since the proposed tolled managed lanes will not be operational until after January 1, 2017, Resolution 3052 would be applicable. A decision on this matter is needed so that studies can proceed using an appropriate assumption for HOV usage on the facility.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the existing policy of toll-free travel for HOV 3+ in 2017 apply to C-470. If the Commission desires, this policy can be affirmed with the adoption of the attached resolution. Staff will provide a written response to the Coalition based on Commission direction.

**Resolution #TC-XXXX**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission is responsible, pursuant to C.R.S. 43-1-106(8), for formulating the general policy of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission previously recognized the benefits of providing toll-free travel to High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs) in Resolution #TC-3052; and

WHEREAS, #TC-3052 requires that as of January 1, 2017 toll-free travel offered to High Occupant Vehicles on tolled managed lanes that are part of the state highway system shall be limited to vehicles with three or more total occupants (HOV 3+).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission hereby reaffirms #TC-3052, and its support for toll-free travel for HOV 3+ on managed lanes that are part of the state highway system, including C-470.

**Resolution #TC-3052**

Adopting a requirement that as of January 1, 2017, toll-free travel offered to High Occupancy Vehicles on all tolled managed lanes that are part of the state highway system shall be limited to vehicles with three or more occupants.

**Approved by the Transportation Commission on: February 21, 2013**

WHEREAS the Transportation Commission is responsible, pursuant to C.R.S. 43-1-106(8), for formulating the general policy of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); and

WHEREAS the Transportation Commission recognizes the importance of consistency among tolled managed lane corridors with regard to High Occupancy Vehicle exceptions; and

WHEREAS the Transportation Commission recognizes the benefits of HOV-3+ to encouraging carpooling and transit use, with resulting reductions in vehicle emissions, to reduce congestion, and improve the safety, capacity, and accessibility of the surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly created the Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) as a government-owned business within CDOT, pursuant to Section 43-4-806 C.R.S., to aggressively pursue innovative means of more efficiently financing important surface transportation projects that will improve the safety, capacity, and accessibility of the surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS to facilitate the financing of important transportation projects, the HPTE Board of Directors has recommended that the Transportation Commission require toll-free travel offered to High Occupancy Vehicles on tolled managed lanes that are part of the state highway system to be limited to vehicles carrying three or more occupants (HOV-3+).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission hereby requires that as of January 1, 2017 toll-free travel offered to High Occupant Vehicles on tolled managed lanes that are part of the state highway system shall be limited to vehicles with three or more total occupants (HOV 3+).

  
Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado

2-21-13  
Date



## C-470 CORRIDOR COALITION

June 21, 2013

Mr. Timothy Harris, Chief Engineer  
Ms. Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, Division of Transportation Development  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
4201 East Arkansas Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222

Subject: HOV Policy Recommendation supported by the C-470 Corridor Coalition

Dear Mr. Harris and Ms. Perkins-Smith:

The C-470 Corridor Coalition has been encouraged to provide input to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on whether an HOV-free policy ought to be established for the managed tolled express lanes now being proposed on C-470 for Segment 1 (Kipling to I-25). Our current traffic modeling and revenue study for the proposed managed tolled express lanes is only analyzing an "everyone pays" alternative, reflecting the approach taken in the original Environmental Assessment.

At the June 6, 2013 C-470 Corridor Coalition Policy Committee meeting, the following recommendation was agreed to by the Steering Committee members:

"The C-470 Corridor Coalition recommends that all vehicles, (including HOV's), that choose to utilize the managed tolled express lanes should pay."

The C-470 Corridor Coalition recommendation that "everyone pays" or "no HOV's for free" is based on considerations of the additional capital and operational costs to accommodate HOV's, the enforcement challenges, and, most important, the need in the current funding environment facing the state and local governments to maximize the potential toll revenue.

The C-470 Corridor Coalition was initiated in February 2011 and the Charter of the C-470 Coalition was adopted December 1, 2011. The C-470 Corridor Coalition has come together to afford various public and quasi-public entities a forum for engaging in a coordinated and collaborative process that identifies solutions for the C-470 Corridor from I-25 to I-70. Options for those solutions are being advanced by the C-470 Coalition by consensus. Presently, the Steering Committee members include the following local agencies:

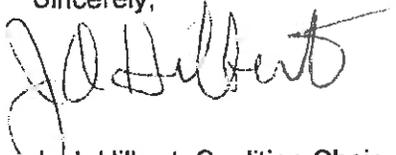
Arapahoe County  
Douglas County  
Jefferson County  
City of Centennial  
City of Lakewood  
City of Littleton  
City of Lone Tree  
Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District

*Letter from the C-470 Coalition to CDOT, (dated June 21, 2013), page 2*  
*RE: HOV Policy Recommendation approved by the C-470 Corridor Coalition*

Additionally, the C-470 Coalition includes Affiliate Members from other local entities and private sector groups (which includes City of Greenwood Village, Towns of Castle Rock, Parker, Bow Mar, Denver South Economic Development Partnership, Chambers, and other Corridor stakeholders) that is participating in the Coalition's efforts. Staff from State / Federal Affiliate Members (CDOT, HPTE, FHWA, RTD and DRCOG) have been participating at the Policy Committee meetings and Technical Working Group meetings since the Coalition was formed.

If additional information is needed, contact Art Griffith at [agriffit@douglas.co.us](mailto:agriffit@douglas.co.us) or by telephone at 303-947-8731, as representatives of the C-470 Corridor Coalition Technical Working Group are available to meet with CDOT to discuss the Coalition's recommendation in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Hilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jack Hilbert, Coalition Chair  
Douglas County Commissioner

cc: Mr. Michael Cheroutes, High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE)  
C-470 Corridor Coalition Steering Committee Members