

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COLORADO TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT OFFICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** NICK FARBER, CTIO DIRECTOR, AND KELLY BROWN, TOLLING OPERATIONS  
MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** C-470 EXPRESS LANES TOLL RATE ADJUSTMENT  
**DATE:** MAY 18, 2022

---

### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is (1) to summarize CTIO staff's planned approach for the time-of-day toll rates for the C-470 Express Lanes and to commence and facilitate a discussion with the Board and the public regarding the establishment of toll rates ranges; and, (2) request Board review of the proposed adjusted toll rates for C-470 Automatic Vehicle Identification via a transponder (AVI) and License Plate Toll via camera (LPT) transactions and provide comments.

### Action

Informational only. No action is needed. The Board will be asked to approve the C-470 toll rate adjustment at the June meeting. The updated toll rates would take effect in early July of this year.

### Background

The C-470 Express Lanes originate from the eastern boundary at the I-25/E-470 junction and terminate at Wadsworth Boulevard. The current toll rates were set in 2020 based on toll rate sensitivity analyses and were the initial toll rates upon the opening of the toll lanes in August 2020. The original C-470 toll rate schedule was based on the pre-pandemic traffic patterns, and over the last two years, CTIO observed lower traffic when we initially thought traffic was going to be higher and higher traffic volumes when we thought traffic would be lower.

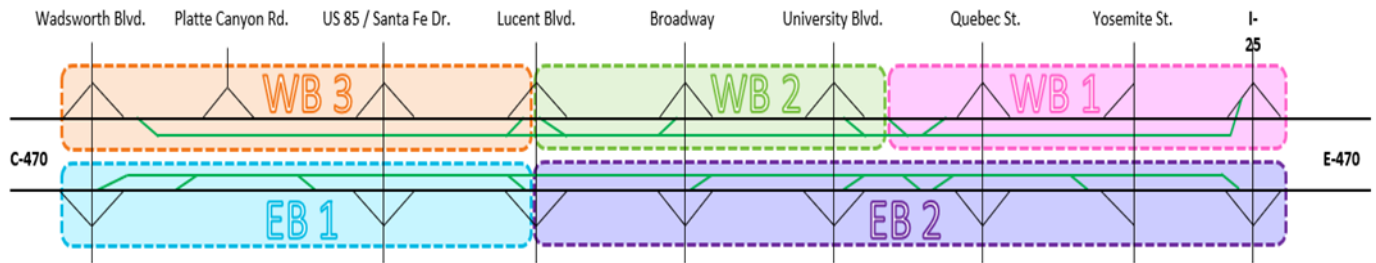
The above analysis shows that the COVID-19 pandemic and construction negatively impacted travel patterns along the C-470 Express Lanes since its opening on August 18, 2020. The goal of the proposed toll adjustment is to simplify the toll rate recommendations by maintaining or increasing current peak periods rates with the shoulder period rates being adjusted downward or staying the same. Peak period rates were adjusted based on observed current traffic volumes by period. The westbound AM peak period toll rates and Eastbound pre-PM Shoulder period rates were increased, and the PM peak period was expanded to thirty minutes earlier. The intent of this recommendation is to generate some additional revenue from the existing users of C-470 through marginal toll rate increases while minimizing excessive diversion away from the express lanes. Additionally, the recommended rates will hedge against the possibility of continued observed traffic volume increases that, if significant enough and sustained for the remaining of 2022, may generate Level of Service D or worse conditions along the C-470 general purpose lanes. Under this condition, the proposed toll rates will position CTIO to better manage, capture, and toll the expected higher traffic demand that is likely to use the express lanes along C-470 as the travel time savings increase. A standard minimum toll rate during off-peak periods is recommended to optimize potential revenue capture based on observed capture rates. It was determined that an optimum minimum toll rate of \$0.75 for AVI customers is sufficient to cover the increased cost of toll collection, operations and maintenance, inflation, and debt coverage.

**Recommended New Rates**

CTIO staff recommends the proposed new AVI and LPT toll rates for the toll schedule shown below. There is no change to the multi-axle (4+) surcharge; it remains \$25.

*Proposed Adjusted AVI and LPT toll rates for the C-470 Express Lanes*

Hours	EB Seg 1 Wadsworth to Lucent		EB Seg 2 Lucent to I-25		WB Seg 1 I-25 to University		WB Seg 2 University to Lucent		WB Seg 3 Lucent to Wadsworth	
	ExpressToll	License Plate Toll	ExpressToll	License Plate Toll	ExpressToll	License Plate Toll	ExpressToll	License Plate Toll	ExpressToll	License Plate Toll
	7:00 PM - 5:59 AM	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 0.75	\$ 3.15	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 0.75	\$ 3.15	\$ 0.75
6:00 - 6:59 AM	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.25	\$ 5.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.55	\$ 1.00	\$ 3.55	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.55
7:00 - 8:59 AM	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.60	\$ 7.65	\$ 1.80	\$ 3.85	\$ 1.80	\$ 4.80	\$ 1.80	\$ 3.85
9:00 - 1:59 PM	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 1.80	\$ 4.80	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 0.75	\$ 3.15	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20
2:00 - 2:59 PM	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.35	\$ 5.70	\$ 1.10	\$ 2.75	\$ 1.10	\$ 3.70	\$ 1.10	\$ 2.75
3:00 - 5:59 PM	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.55	\$ 3.30	\$ 7.20	\$ 2.20	\$ 4.45	\$ 2.20	\$ 5.45	\$ 2.20	\$ 4.45
6:00 - 6:59 PM	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.85	\$ 6.45	\$ 1.65	\$ 3.60	\$ 1.65	\$ 4.55	\$ 1.65	\$ 3.60
\$25 Surcharge for 4+ Axle Vehicles per Zone All Hours										



**Next Steps**

- The Board is being asked to review the recommended proposed AVI and LPT toll rates range for the C-470 Express Lanes and provide feedback.
- CTIO staff will integrate any requested changes to the recommended proposed AVI and LPT toll rates for C-470 Express Lanes and will return to the Board in June for the final adoption of AVI and LPT toll rates.
- CTIO staff will begin the Public Outreach process.

**Attachments**

Attachment A: C-470 Toll Rate Adjustment Decision Matrix

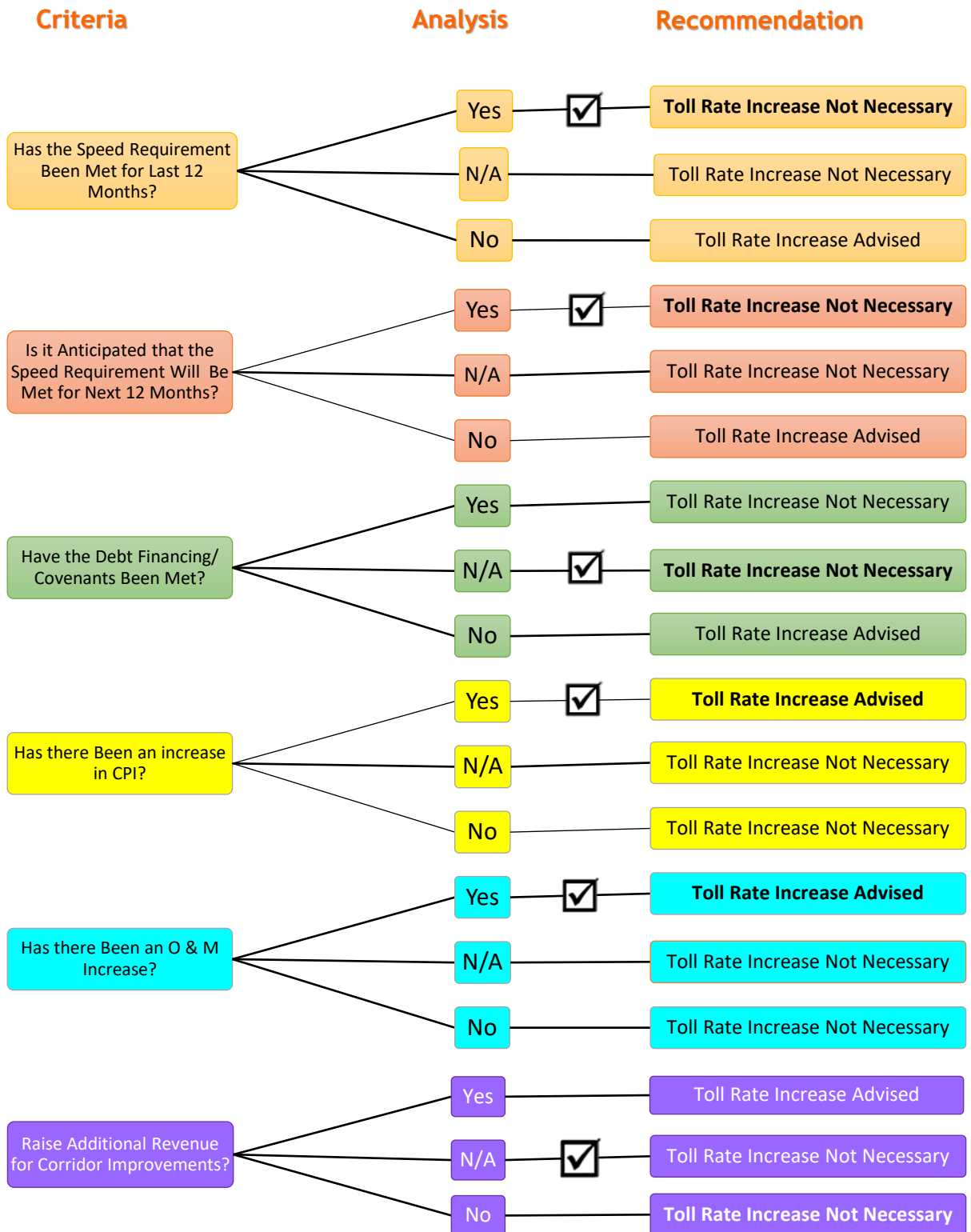


COLORADO  
**Transportation  
Investment Office**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**C-470 Toll Rate Adjustment Decision Matrix**

## C-470 ANNUAL TOLL RATE ADJUSTMENT DECISION MATRIX FOR FY 2022/2023



Based on the answers provided in the above matrix, is the current toll rate sufficient to cover the increased costs for **FY 2022/2023**?

