

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND CTIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: SIMON LOGAN, SPECIAL PROJECT LEAD AND POLICY ANALYST
SUBJECT: GLOBEVILLE AND ELYRIA SWANSEA (GES) TOLLING EQUITY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT
DATE: JANUARY 18, 2022

PURPOSE

To update the Transportation Commission on the progress of implementing the GES Tolling Equity Program.

REQUESTED ACTION:

The purpose of this memo is informational only, and no action is being requested.

BACKGROUND:

The 2017 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Central 70 project included a commitment for CTIO to explore ways to provide discounted access to the Express Lanes for low-income residents of the GES neighborhoods. As a result, CTIO embarked on a year-long process to comply with this commitment and identify a program to bring to the CTIO Board of Directors for approval. This effort included significant engagement with peer agencies nationwide, the GES community, and other local stakeholders. The CTIO Board of Directors (CTIO Board) approved the program in April 2022.

The approved GES Tolling Equity Program has three main components:

1. Benefits
 - Toll credit (\$100) and a transponder for eligible residents to access the Express Lanes.
 - Free Transit passes available within the community at distribution sites.
2. Eligibility:
 - Residents of GES with an annual household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and households displaced from GES due to eminent domain for the I-70 Central Project with an annual household income below 200 percent of the FPL. CDOT holds a list of these displaced households.
2. Funding
 - Administrative and start-up costs, up to \$1 million, provided by CDOT.
 - CTIO will cover the initial cost of the free transponder and promotional credit for all eligible residents.
 - Each subsequent year, 15 percent of net toll revenue from the Central 70 Express Lanes will be allocated to the GES community to pay for the ongoing benefits.

In support of the program, the Transportation Commission (TC) approved an Intra Agency Agreement (IAA) between CDOT and CTIO, contributing one million dollars for start-up and administrative costs and activities. Per the terms of the IAA, CTIO is required to provide a progress report by January.

Key Activities:

Following the approval of the program and IAA in April 2022, CTIO staff have been working diligently to develop the necessary processes, implementation steps, and contracting with vendors to make the benefits accessible to all eligible residents of GES.

Key activities include:

- Identify a Partner Organization in the GES Community
 - CTIO has contracted with Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) for evaluation, reporting, registration, and community outreach.
- Transit Pass Distribution
 - Seven distribution sites within Globeville and Elyria-Swansea have been identified by NETC and CTIO to give out transit passes within the community when the program launches.
- Website Creation
 - A landing page with crucial information on the program and frequently asked questions have been added to the Central 70 section of the Express Lanes page. A portal has also been created on the NETC website for GES residents to register interest in the program and provide their contact information.
- Equitable Access to the Tolling Element
 - CTIO is contracting with BancPass in early 2023 to manage the tolling element of the program. They offer more ways for participants to top up accounts using cash or card and have more touch points to notify users when their balance is running low. This requires some development work with E-470 to integrate this vendor into the back office.
- Tolling Back Office Coordination
 - CTIO and E-470 staff have begun working on the necessary back-office changes required to integrate BancPass with E-470.
- Promotional materials
 - Various promotional materials have been developed to raise awareness within the community of the program and to educate potential participants on Express Lanes, how to use them, and how to access the benefits the program provides.

NEXT STEPS:

- 1) CTIO staff is working on launching the program in late February 2023, ahead of tolling go live.
- 2) CTIO will provide another progress report on or before January 15, 2024.