



COLORADO  
**Transportation  
Investment Office**

# **Annual Toll Rate Adjustments for All Express Lanes**

**May 2025 Board Meeting**

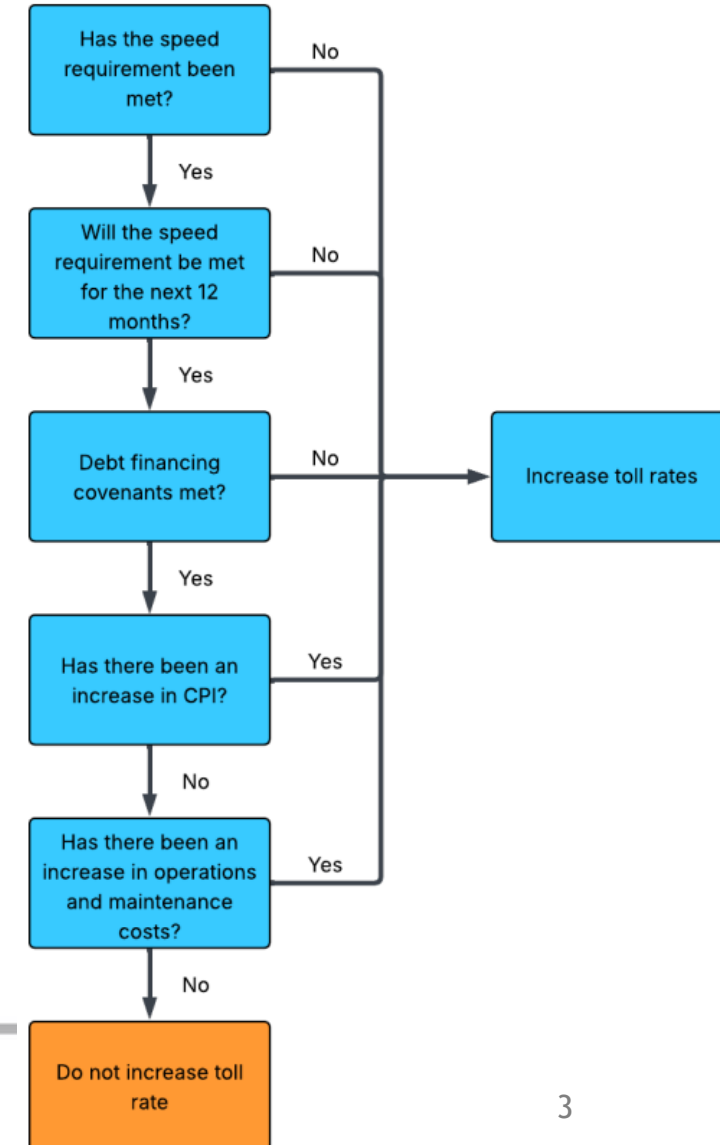
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# CTIO Tolling Policy and Toll Rate Adjustment Methodology

- CTIO Tolling Policy
  - Provides a framework for the setting and adjustment of toll rates on CTIO's Express Lanes.
- Toll Rate Adjustment Methodology
  - Staff evaluates the performance of each express lane to determine adherence to traffic operations requirements and financial covenants. This performance is based on parameters outlined within the tolling policy and used to recommend toll rate adjustments for approval by the Board of directors.
- FY 2025-26 Toll Rate Adjustment Schedule
  - Toll rate analysis: April-May
  - Recommended toll rates introduced to the Board: May 14th
  - Approval of the toll rates by the Board: June 18th
  - If approved in June, recommended toll rates go into effect: July 1st

# Toll Rate Adjustment Parameters

- Speed and Levels of Service (LOS)
  - Federal policy (23 U.S.C. 166(d)(2)) guides CTIO to maintain speeds of at least 45 miles per hour (mph), 90 percent of the time for 180 consecutive days on all express lanes.
- Debt Financing
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Operations and Maintenance Costs (O&M)



# Key Findings

- Speed was determined to meet the federal code for all corridors, however, Central 70 Westbound and I-25 Segment 2 Southbound had speeds below 45 mph during peak periods over 5% of the time.
- LOS was determined to be a level C or better for all corridors.
- Debt financing will continue to be met on all corridors that have debt obligations.
- The Consumer Price Index for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area from March 2024 to March 2025 was estimated to be 2.3%. Operations and Maintenance cost increases require a 3% increase in all toll rates, which includes the inflationary costs.

# Summary of Recommendations

- CTIO is recommending an increase due to inflationary and O&M cost increases of 3% across all express lanes, except the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes.
  - This increase will only affect the minimum toll rate for I-25 South Gap and Central 70.
- Staff is recommending a further increase for I-25 Segment 2 Southbound and, Central 70 due to decreased speeds during peak periods.
  - I-25 Segment 2 Southbound has decreased speeds beginning at 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Staff recommends increasing the toll rates from \$1.45 to \$1.90 during the 5:00 AM to 6:45 AM time frame.
  - Central 70 in the westbound direction has decreased speeds from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Staff recommends increasing the maximum cap for both directions of Central 70 from \$5.50 to \$6.00.

# Next Steps

- The CTIO Board is encouraged to provide feedback on the recommended updates to the toll rates and dynamic pricing algorithm criteria for all corridors.
- CTIO staff will integrate any requested changes and return at the next board meeting with a resolution for CTIO Board approval of the updated toll rates and dynamic pricing algorithm criterion.