

US 36 Express Lanes Phase 2 and Special Events Proposed Toll Rates: Comments, Questions/Answers

The following comments, questions and answers were received during the Oct. 1, 2015, telephone town hall hosted by CDOT's High Performance Transportation Enterprise and Plenary Roads Denver on the proposed toll rate schedules for the second phase of the US 36 Express Lanes, including special event toll rates.

Click [here](#) to listen to the audio file from the telephone town hall and to hear the information shared, additional comments, questions and responses from the Oct. 1, event.

COMMENTS

1. Not satisfied with quality of answers at meeting.
2. Thinks the transponders should be free so more people will be encouraged to use them. Wonders what will happen if you do not pay fine, and if the transponders are free.
3. Wants to be notified on the day of telephone town hall, but before the town hall starts. Wonders why people are being called during the meeting. Thinks the Express Lane is too expensive and thinks 45 MPH is too slow to be considered an express lane. Thinks US 36 is too dangerous to drive. Thinks the Express Lane should have been voted on by the people before moving forward.
4. Thinks Gov. Ritter failed to cure Colorado's highway problems after much of the citizen's money was given to solve it. Thinks money is not being managed well and the Express Lane does not benefit senior citizens on a fixed income.
5. Thinks the toll and transponders is unconstitutional. Thinks the public should have a say in the Express Lane.
6. Thinks the increase in passengers for the HOV lane is ridiculous. Would never use the HOV lane to get from Boulder to Denver. Thinks current HOV transponder is outdated. Thinks the transponder is dangerous and causes distracted driving. Thinks more updated technology should replace the transponder, as the transponder is outdated.
7. Annoyed that he was not informed on toll road changes. Upset he wasn't able to ask any questions.
8. Wondering if any thought has been given to increase the tolls to reduce the number of people on roads. Has a family of two and is concerned he will not be able to use the HOV lane when minimum occupancy is increased to three in 2017.
9. Doesn't think the toll road will last forever. Says there are chunks of concrete already missing between Pecos and Sheridan, and doesn't agree that the public is having to pay for this. Has a problem with the toll system in place that benefits people with more money.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

EXPRESSTOLL PASS AND TRANSPONDER QUESTIONS:

10. Wonders if the transponder can be Velcro, rather than an adhesive, so he can switch it to another vehicle he drives in the summer. Also wondering what happened to the idea of local residents getting a free pass on the toll road.
- The number of passes, whether they are sticker tags or the switchable HOV passes are unlimited per account or the household. However, each vehicle must have a pass that is registered to that vehicle only; therefore, the pass must remain in the vehicle it is registered to with ExpressToll. ExpressToll will send a new sticker or switchable HOV pass with the double-sided tape and instructions on how to install the pass when it is ordered.
 - To travel for free on the US 36 Express Lanes, a driver must be travelling as an HOV, currently with 2 or more passengers and a switchable HOV pass.
11. Wants to know if the transponders can be used for multiple express lanes. Thinks the transponder system is archaic and infrared cameras is a more practical option.
- Yes, the ExpressToll sticker tags and switchable HOV passes can be used on all of Colorado's Express Lanes and toll roads, including the Northwest Parkway and E-470.
12. Thinks transponder is too difficult and complicated for the average person.
- To learn more about how to get an account and what pass is right for you, visit www.expresstoll.com or call (303) 537-3470.

ENFORCEMENT

13. Wants to know if cars that are not broken down will be automatically fined for being in the shoulder lane to get around traffic.
- Local law enforcement is able to re-direct traffic as necessary during emergencies or roadway accidents. If drivers are diverted into the toll lane by law enforcement, they will not be charged a toll.
 - Cars should not use the shoulders to bypass traffic.
 - Shoulders should only be used to get out of traffic in an emergency or vehicle malfunction.

14. Wondering about the speed limit going from 55 MPH to 65 MPH and the number of violators that cross the double white line to speed on US 36. Wants to know how she can get into the CDOT hybrid program.
- The Express Lanes speed limit is the same limit as the general purpose lanes and can be between 55 and 65 MPH. The 55 MPH limit may also be used on parts of the project that are under construction for the safety of the workers.
 - Drivers should not cross a double solid white line and only enter and exit the Express Lanes where it is signed and where there are dotted white lines for ingress/egress. Violators can be fined by law enforcement.
 - Information on the CDOT hybrid vehicle program can be found at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/hybrids>

PROJECT

15. Wondering if there could be a sidewalk to go along the highway. Doesn't have a car and pedestrian access would make a big difference for the caller.
- The US 36 Express Lanes includes a 12-foot wide, 18 mile bikeway, designed for biking commuters, which will connect Boulder to Denver. The bikeway is separated from the highway. Learn more at <https://www.codot.gov/projects/US36ExpressLanes/bikeway-construction-updates>
16. Wondering if light rail has anything to do with toll roads. If so, when would the light rail from I-25 to Boulder, or even farther north, be available? Also wondering if the lottery money is going towards tolls and road improvements.
- RTD FasTracks contributed \$142.5 million to the construction of the US 36 Express Lanes, which RTD's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the Flatiron Flyer, will use. The US 36 BRT was part of the original FasTracks plan that was voter-approved in 2004. Along with BRT, the Northwest Rail Line, a commuter rail line, was also included in the plan. To learn more about RTD's commuter rail plans, visit www.rtd-denver.com.
 - Lottery funds can't be used for this project. Colorado statute directs the funding for the lottery funds.