



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda item # 2

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 19, 2016

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Williams, Seconded By: Mr. Brown

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Designation of HOT Lanes and Related Extension of the Operating Hours on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 and TFR Funding Authorization

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of § 33.2-502 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (the "CTB") may designate one or more lanes of any highway, including lanes that may have previously been designated as High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, in the Interstate System, primary state highway system, or National Highway System, or any portion thereof, as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 33.2-309 of the Code of Virginia, the CTB may, in accord with federal and state statutes and requirements, impose and collect tolls from all classes of vehicles in amounts established by the CTB for the use of any component of the Interstate System within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 USC §166 (a)(4), a public authority may allow vehicles not otherwise exempt from HOV requirements to use a HOV facility if the operators of the vehicles pay a toll charged by the authority for use of the facility and the authority (A) establishes a program that addresses how motorists can enroll and participate in the toll program; (B) develops, manages, and maintains a system that will automatically collect the toll; and (C)

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establishes policies and procedures to, among other things, manage the demand to use the facility by varying the toll amount that is charged; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has analyzed the traffic congestion that is being experienced through a feasibility analysis that indicated a reduction in traffic in the general purpose lanes during peak periods could be achieved through the conversion of the HOV lanes to HOT lanes; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has concluded from the analysis and advised that the reversible HOV-2 lanes on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 in Hampton Roads are underutilized, with additional capacity that could help to reduce congestion in the general purpose lanes in the area; and

WHEREAS, VDOT has concluded and has advised that allowing vehicles not meeting the vehicle occupancy requirements to use the HOV-2 lanes on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 by paying a toll would increase utilization of these lanes, as well as increase capacity, reduce congestion and increase speeds and reliability in the general purpose lanes, and improve speeds in the HOV/HOT lanes during rush hour, thereby increasing throughput in the corridor; and

WHEREAS, VDOT has recommended and requested that the CTB designate the existing Interstate 64 HOV-2 reversible lanes from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 as HOT-2 and further that the CTB authorize use of dynamic tolling to adjust tolls based on real-time traffic conditions; and

WHEREAS, VDOT has requested that the CTB, in order to maximize the benefits of the conversion of the HOV lanes to HOT lanes, extend the operational hours of the HOV lanes from Monday – Friday 6:00am – 8:00am (Westbound), 4:00pm -6:00pm (Eastbound) to Monday – Friday 5:00am – 9:00am (Westbound), 2:00pm – 6:00pm (Eastbound), at such time that tolling on the lanes commences; and

WHEREAS, funding is needed to cover the costs of conversion of the existing Interstate 64 HOV-2 reversible lanes from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 to HOT-2 lanes and implementation of tolling associated therewith, with the most immediate need being funding to cover costs associated with work necessary to prepare for and administer the procurement of the needed tolling infrastructure and related services; and

WHEREAS, as a potential toll facility, the CTB may provide advance funding for this effort from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account pursuant to Section 33.2-1529 of the *Code of Virginia*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to § 33.2-502 and § 33.2-309 of the *Code of Virginia* and 23 USC §166, the Commonwealth Transportation Board

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authorizes dynamic tolling of vehicles utilizing the HOV reversible lanes on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264, during the Westbound AM peak period of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 am on weekdays and during the Eastbound PM peak period of 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on weekdays for vehicles carrying less than two occupants (collectively, HOT Lanes-2 designation), to be implemented at such time that the infrastructure and improvements necessary to commence tolling on said portion of I-64 are determined by the Commissioner of Highways to be completed and ready for operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that until tolling commences on the HOV-2 reversible lanes on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264, the hours of operation of said HOV-2 lanes shall continue to be Monday – Friday 6:00am – 8:00am (Westbound) and 4:00pm -6:00pm (Eastbound).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that an amount up to \$5,000,000 be advanced from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account and allocated to pay the costs associated with work necessary to prepare for and administer the procurement of the needed tolling infrastructure and related services associated with conversion of these lanes from HOV-2 to HOT-2 , and that requests for additional funding from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account or other sources shall be presented to the Board prior to or at such time that the contract for the tolling infrastructure and related services is presented to the Board for its approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commonwealth Transportation Board that the toll revenues collected from this facility will be used in accord with section 33.2-309, including the reimbursement of funding advanced from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account authorized herein in accord with section 33.2-1529 of the Code of Virginia.

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CTB Decision Brief

Designation of HOT Lanes and Related Extension of the Operating Hours on Interstate 64 from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 and TFERA Funding Authorization

Issue: To provide travel choices to reduce congestion by using the underused High occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in Hampton Roads, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) seeks from the Commonwealth Transportation Board (the “CTB”) (i) designate the existing Interstate 64 HOV-2 reversible lanes from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 as HOT-2 and further that the CTB authorize use of dynamic tolling to adjust tolls based on real-time traffic conditions, (ii) in order to maximize the benefits of the conversion of the HOV lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, extend the operational hours of the HOV lanes from Monday – Friday 6:00am – 8:00am (Westbound), 4:00pm -6:00pm (Eastbound) to Monday – Friday 5:00am – 9:00am (Westbound), 2:00pm – 6:00pm (Eastbound), at such time that tolling on the lanes commences, and (iii) provide advance funding for this effort from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account pursuant to Section 33.2-1529 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Facts:

- Pursuant to § 33.2-502 of the *Code of Virginia*, The CTB may designate one or more lanes of any highway, including lanes that may have previously have been designated HOV lanes, in the Interstate System, primary state highway or National Highway System, as HOT lanes; and
- Pursuant to section 33.2-309 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB may, in accord with federal and state statutes and requirements, impose and collect tolls from all classes of vehicles in amounts established by the CTB for the use of any component of the Interstate System within the Commonwealth; and
- Pursuant to 23 USC §166 (a)(4), a public authority may allow vehicles not otherwise exempt from HOV requirements to use an HOV facility if the operators of the vehicles pay a toll charged by the authority for use of the facility and the authority (A) establishes a program that addresses how motorists can enroll and participate in the toll program; (B) develops, manages, and maintains a system that will automatically collect the toll; and (C) establishes policies and procedures to, among other things, manage the demand to use the facility by varying the toll amount that is charged; and
- The current HOV lanes in Hampton Roads are underused and the VDOT has analyzed the traffic congestion that is being experienced through a feasibility study that indicated a reduction in traffic in the general purpose lanes during peak periods could be achieved through the conversion of the HOV lanes to HOT lanes; and;
- In January 2016, the VDOT briefed the CTB and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) on beginning of Feasibility Study; and

- In September 2016, the VDOT briefed the CTB and the HRTPO on Feasibility Study results.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends that the CTB:

(i) designate the existing Interstate 64 HOV-2 reversible lanes from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 as HOT-2 and further that the CTB authorize use of dynamic tolling to adjust tolls based on real-time traffic conditions; and

(ii) in order to maximize the benefits of the conversion of the HOV lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, extend the operational hours of the HOV lanes from Monday – Friday 6:00am – 8:00am (Westbound), 4:00pm -6:00pm (Eastbound) to Monday – Friday 5:00am – 9:00am (Westbound), 2:00pm – 6:00pm (Eastbound), at such time that tolling on the lanes commences; and

(iii) advance an amount up to \$5,000,000 from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account and allocated to pay the costs associated with work necessary to prepare for and administer the procurement of the needed tolling infrastructure and related services associated with conversion of these lanes from HOV-2 to HOT-2 , and that requests for additional funding from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account or other sources shall be presented to the Board prior to or at such time that the contract for the tolling infrastructure and related services is presented to the Board for its approval.

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote.

Results, if Approved: If approved, the resolution will result in the designation of the existing Interstate 64 HOV-2 reversible lanes from Interstate 564 to Interstate 264 as HOT-2 and authorize the use of dynamic tolling, extending the operating hours of the HOV lanes from Monday – Friday 6:00am – 8:00am (Westbound), 4:00pm – 6:00pm(Eastbound) to Monday – Friday 5:00am – 9;00am (Westbound), 2:00pm – 6:00pm (Eastbound) at such time that tolling on the lanes commences, and provide an amount up to \$5,000,000 be advanced from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account and allocated to pay the costs associated with work necessary to prepare for and administer the procurement of the needed tolling infrastructure and related services associated with conversion of these lanes from HOV-2 to HOT-2.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reaction:

- On June 2008, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation encouraged the conversion of HOV to HOT (allowed by SAFETEA-LU) in response to a Virginia Congressional request to convert to general purpose lanes.
- On September 15, 2016, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board passed a resolution of support for this conversion.