2026 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB30 (Enrolled)

Bill Order » Office of Transportation » Item 441

Department of Transportation

Item 441	First Year - FY2027	Second Year - FY2028
Commonwealth Toll Facilities (60600)	**$143,663,377**	**$157,053,991**
Toll Facility Debt Service (60602)	$13,650,204	$11,349,796
Toll Facility Maintenance And Operation (60603)	$28,913,173	$44,604,195
Toll Facilities Revolving Fund (60604)	$101,100,000	$101,100,000
Fund Sources:		
General	$0	$24,000,000
Commonwealth Transportation	$143,663,377	$133,053,991

Authority: §§ 33.2-1524 and 33.2-1700 through 33.2-1729, Code of Virginia.

A. Included in this Item are funds for the installation and implementation of a statewide Electronic Toll Customer Service/Violation Enforcement System.

B. The Department shall not charge a fee to customers who have a EZ Pass flex or standard transponder based on the transponder not being used or being infrequently used.

C.1. Out of the amounts in this item, $24,000,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to the Department for the purpose of providing additional toll relief to eligible drivers defined as registered drivers (a) who earn less than $50,000 per year, (b) whose primary residence is (i) in a planning district with at least three tolled bridges or tunnels and (ii) within a locality with a score of 104 or higher on the fiscal stress index and with a median household income between $53,000 and $57,000, as published by the Department of Housing and Community Development in July 2023, and (c) who drive a two-axle passenger vehicle to utilize the tunnels in a locality described in (b). The Commissioner shall use funds appropriated in this Item i) to establish a program to provide such eligible drivers with an E-ZPass transponder and the required prefunded account balance, for those who have not previously enrolled in the existing Toll Relief program and have not opened a Virginia E-ZPass Account; ii) to provide such eligible drivers an additional 50 percent toll relief rebate, that when combined with the existing Toll Relief program, provides up to a 100 percent toll rebate on up to 14 trips per week on the Elizabeth River Tunnels; and iii) to redeem outstanding customer balances and fees as of December 31, 2023, due to Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) for drivers described in (b) at the time the toll was incurred subject to negotiation between the Commissioner and ERC.

2. The toll relief programs authorized in this item will end in fiscal year 2036 in conjunction with the planned end of the existing Toll Relief program in fiscal year 2036. This toll relief is in addition to the current Toll Relief program administered by the Department and funded by ERC. The Department shall implement this additional toll relief program no later than January 1, 2025, and administer such program in the same manner as the existing Toll Relief program.

3. All funding appropriated in this item for toll relief shall be deposited into an Eligible Drivers Toll Relief Fund. Any funds remaining in the Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. All interest and dividends that are earned on the account shall be credited to the Fund. Any funds remaining in the Fund at the end of the toll relief program in 2036 shall revert to the general fund.

4. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Treasury shall enter into a memorandum of agreement related to the management and investment of the monies in the Fund.

5. Consistent with the provisions of subdivision C of § 58.1-3, the Tax Commissioner is authorized to provide to the Department of Transportation, upon entering into a written agreement, the adjusted gross income and any additional information supporting validation of the income of drivers eligible to participate in a toll relief program.

6. The Commissioner shall report to the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations, Finance, and Transportation and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and on Transportation annually by the first day of the regular session of the General Assembly on the additional toll relief provided from the Fund.

7. Notwithstanding § 46.2-819.3:1 L, Code of Virginia, the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles shall not be required to assess a $40 fee for withholding the registration or renewal of vehicles associated with the redemption of outstanding customer balances and fees under this item.

8. The funds provided in paragraph C.1. of this item, to the extent available, may be used to supplement the original "ERC Toll Relief program" administered by the Department and funded by ERC. The Department shall administer the program in a manner to fully utilize ERC's contribution per Amendment 9 of the Comprehensive Agreement. If the Department projects, based on parameters as of July 1, 2025, that funding will be insufficient to fully fund the program in any one year, the amount needed shall be provided from the Eligible Drivers Toll Relief Fund. The Department shall notify the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees within 30 days of any shortfall which results in a change in the amount used from the Eligible Drivers Toll Relief Fund. The Department shall report on projected estimates and any amounts supplemented from the Eligible Drivers Toll Relief Fund by March 31 of each year to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees.

9. The Department of Transportation shall assess the extent to which ongoing funding, provided in paragraph C.1., is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. The Department shall report its findings to the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee no later than December 1, 2026.

D.1. No later than January 1, 2026, all rates, fees, tolls and other charges shall cease to be collected for the use of the George P. Coleman Bridge.

2. Notwithstanding § 33.2-1529 D 1, Code of Virginia, any funds allocated from the Toll Facility Revolving Account to the George P. Coleman Bridge which cannot be reimbursed to the Toll Facility Revolving Account from available George P. Coleman Bridge funds shall not require reimbursement to the Toll Facility Revolving Account.

E. The Commissioner shall work with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and toll operators throughout the Commonwealth to reduce, or when practical, eliminate the practice of charging tolls for public transit buses, when not in conflict with contractual obligations or other provisions of law.

F. Out of this appropriation, an estimated $13,650,204 the first year and $11,349,796 the second year from toll revenues of the Interstate 66 Inside the Beltway shall be provided for debt service reserve funds on Virginia Passenger Rail Facilities Bonds or financing from the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program.