

## FTAC Statement on System Tolling

The Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) is a subcommittee of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). The main function of FTAC is to advocate for the transportation needs of freight as it moves along the major systems and corridors in and out of Hampton Roads. This advocacy is intended to provide guidance and awareness on efforts that assist the growth of existing businesses, and attract new business to the region. The Committee's focus is aimed at the economic well-being of the region and its citizens. Economic benefits result from free-flowing commerce, which is based on the predictability of on-time deliveries at reasonable costs made possible by effective transportation infrastructure.

FTAC bylaws instruct the committee to take actions that influence policy makers, the public and the process of prioritizing and funding of projects.

Tolls will be prominent in the equation for improving the region's transportation infrastructure. However, the HRTPO needs to ensure that tolls do not become prominent at the expense of local industry and commerce growth.

As multiple projects requiring tolls are identified, the costs and benefits that will occur from tolls either bringing business into the region or pushing it away need to be understood and evaluated carefully when setting toll rates for trucks.

Every business can be impacted differently from transportation improvements funded through tolls.

FTAC is structured to identify these issues and advocate that they be considered but does not have the resources to perform the in depth study needed. FTAC requests that the HRTPO evaluate the importance of identifying the tipping points between tolled facilities promoting economic growth and curtailing growth. Further, FTAC recommends that HRTPO identify funds for this study to be conducted.

FTAC believes the study should include:

- Existing businesses by commodity location
- Estimates on margins by commodity (high value goods less subject to influence by tolling versus low value goods)
- Benefits of the tolled facilities in terms of transit time and delay reductions compared to the impact of tolls
- Origin destination pairs of cargo movements with an overlay of proposed tolling scenarios
- Comparison of Hampton Roads with tolls to competing areas and their transportation facility/tolling situation