

# METRO EXPRESSLANES

## The Experience: *Congestion Pricing*

**“Congestion pricing”** provides an opportunity to sell some of the additional capacity on the ExpressLanes to those willing to pay a toll and maximizes efficiency of the entire freeway. It is designed to keep traffic in the ExpressLanes flowing smoothly, resulting in a more reliable travel time. Tolls on the ExpressLanes are based on real-time traffic conditions and vary according to the level of congestion in the ExpressLanes. The toll is higher when there is more traffic in the ExpressLanes, and lower when traffic is lighter.

**No Tollbooths:** Entry points for the ExpressLanes are the existing carpool entrances on the I-10 and I-110. The operation is fully electronic. There are no tollbooths or traffic gates, so there is no stopping to pay the toll and traffic remains free flowing. The toll amount is deducted automatically from your FasTrak® account.

**FasTrak® Required:** All vehicles in the ExpressLanes need a FasTrak transponder mounted on the windshield. Carpool vehicles, motorcycles, and vanpools can use the ExpressLanes toll free, but must have a transponder to drive in the ExpressLanes.

**Calculating Tolls:** Tolls on the ExpressLanes are based on the current congestion level and trip length on the ExpressLanes. The toll is higher when there is more traffic in the ExpressLanes, and lower when traffic is lighter.

**New Roadway Signage:** When approaching an ExpressLanes entrance, an overhead electronic sign displays two toll amounts: the top row will display the current toll from the entrance to the next major exit and the bottom row will display the current toll from the entrance to the end of the ExpressLanes.

**What You Pay:** When entering the ExpressLanes, you pay the toll as displayed on the overhead sign. During your trip the toll amounts may vary on the overhead signs as you travel on the ExpressLanes. The minimum toll when traffic is lighter is \$0.25 per mile, and the maximum toll during peak congestion is \$1.40 per mile. A lower toll encourages solo drivers to enter the ExpressLanes when there is room for them, and a higher toll discourages solo drivers from entering the ExpressLanes when congestion is building up.

**Why Toll Changes:** The toll amount varies as traffic conditions change, but you will always pay the toll that was displayed on the overhead sign when you first entered the ExpressLanes. In other words, your rate is locked in at the beginning of your trip.

**Exceeding Capacity:** If the average travel speed in the ExpressLanes falls below 45 mph because of increased demand, the message displayed on the overhead sign will change to “HOV only.” This message will inform potential toll paying drivers that they will not be allowed to enter the ExpressLanes until speeds climb above 45 mph. If you are a toll paying driver already using the ExpressLanes when the sign message changes to “HOV only,” you will be able to complete your trip.



**Metro**

