

Toll Modernization Video Script

Scene	Audio	Graphic
1	The Maryland Transportation Authority, or MDTA, is considering new tolling options as part of our transformative Toll Modernization proposal.	<i>Toll Modernization Proposal MDTA logo</i>
2	During our outreach process, we are seeking the public's comments and holding nine public hearings to present the proposed options.	<i>Hearing Locations</i>
3	The hearings provide attendees an opportunity to comment through public or private testimony or via written comments. All comments will become part of the public record.	<i>Purpose of the Public Hearings</i>
4	You can also provide comments online at mdta.maryland.gov/TollModernization/Home	<i>Toll Modernization website photo</i>
5	or by mail to: Toll Modernization Comment 2310 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224	<i>Girl at mailbox</i>
6	The public comment period closes at 5PM on October 3, 2019.	<i>Red box with Comment Period in it.</i>
7	The MDTA is the agency that owns, operates and maintains Maryland's toll facilities.	<i>MDTA Facilities</i>
8	It is governed by eight citizen Board Members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and chaired by Secretary of Transportation, Pete K. Rahn. James F. Ports, Jr. is the Executive Director and oversees daily operations.	<i>MDTA Governing Body</i>
9	The MDTA is self-funded with revenues almost entirely generated through tolls and does not receive state tax dollars or funds from the State's Transportation Trust Fund. All toll dollars collected at Maryland toll facilities go directly back into the operation, maintenance, upgrades and security of those facilities.	<i>MDTA Operations</i>
10	After several years of planning and evaluating, the MDTA is moving forward with a new Third-Generation – or 3G – Electronic Toll Collection System	<i>3G Electronic Toll Collection System</i>
11	The proposal improves the fairness of toll rates and responds to customer feedback that was previously not able to be addressed because the technology wasn't available. The proposed toll modernization proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a new toll payment method called Pay-by-Plate; • Reduces toll rates for new and expanded vehicle classifications; and • Provides a discount for early payment of Video Tolls. 	<i>Proposed program features</i>
12	The proposed toll modernization proposal does not change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discount plans such as Commuter Discount Programs, Bay Bridge Shopper, and Hatem Plans; or • Commercial Post-Usage Discount and Rebate Program. 	<i>Proposed program features with green sign</i>

13	There will be no increase in toll rates as a result of the toll modernization proposal!	<i>There will be NO increase in toll rates!</i>
14	The Toll Modernization proposal includes a new payment method called Pay-by-Plate. This method benefits customers who infrequently use toll facilities and those who do not want to keep a pre-paid E-ZPass balance. It allows tolls to be automatically billed to credit cards at the same rate that cash customers pay today.	<i>New Payment Method</i>
15	To use this method, you would register your license plate and credit card either online or at a customer service center. You wouldn't need to keep a pre-paid balance or pay the 50% Video Toll surcharge. Pay-by-Plate will also give customers more payment options at future cashless tolling facilities.	<i>Pay-by-Plate</i>
16	At the all-electronic Intercounty Connector and I-95 Express Toll Lanes, customers who use this method will pay at least 20 percent less than the Video Toll, or Pay by Invoice, rate and 25% more than the E-ZPass rate. At all other MDTA facilities, drivers would pay the rate for cash and non-Maryland E-ZPass customers.	<i>Pay-by-Plate – Rates at ICC and ETL</i>
17	This option would be available to customers by June 2020.	<i>Pay-by-Plate calendar</i>
18	Advancements in toll technology provide MDTA the ability to align toll rates to the associated wear and tear vehicles have on MDTA's roadways. This advancement addresses feedback received from motorcyclists, small businesses, boaters and drivers of recreational vehicles.	<i>Advancements in Toll Technology</i>
19	The current motorcycle classification will be expanded to include all motorcycle configurations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toll rates would be reduced 50% for motorcycles. • All other 2-axle, 4 wheeled vehicles would continue paying the current toll rate. 	<i>New Vehicle Classifications – 2-Axle</i>
20	The current 3-axle vehicle class will be split: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new 3-Axle Light classification would include 2-axle passenger vehicles towing 1-axle trailers or campers with a 25% reduction in toll rates compared to current rates. • The 3-Axle Heavy classification would include all other 3-axle vehicles with no change to the current toll rate. 	<i>New Vehicle Classification – 3-Axle</i>
22	The current 4-axle class will be split: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4-Axle Light classification would include 2-axle passenger vehicles towing 2-axle trailers or campers with a 17% reduction in toll rates compared to current rates. • The 4-Axle Heavy classification would include all other 4-axle vehicles with no change to the current toll rate. 	<i>New Vehicle Classification – 4-Axle</i>
22	The five and six-axle classifications will remain unchanged.	<i>Unchanged Vehicle Classifications</i>
23	The new classifications would be available by September 2020.	<i>New Vehicle Classifications</i>
24	The Toll Modernization proposal includes an early payment discount for customers who have a Video Toll transaction and pay their toll before the invoice is mailed.	<i>Early Payment Discount – Video Toll (Pay-by-Invoice)</i>
25	Video tolling occurs when a vehicle uses a Maryland toll facility without cash or valid electronic payment. An image is taken of the vehicle's license plate and an invoice is mailed to the registered	<i>Early Payment Discount</i>

	<p>driver to pay the Video Toll rate. Video toll rates are one and a half times the cash/base rate to offset the higher cost of processing video tolls.</p> <p>With the proposed early payment discount, customers who pay their video toll either online or at a customer service center, within a predetermined number of calendar days, would receive a 15% discount, with a maximum discount of \$5.00. Because the MDTA would not have to mail an invoice, we can pass these savings along to our customer.</p>	<i>Image from "Video Toll (Pay-by-Invoice) Early Payment Discount" board</i>
26	This early payment discount would be available by December 2020.	<i>Early Payment Discount – Video Toll Process</i>
27	<p>Tables showing the reduced toll rates based on the proposal have been prepared for all of MDTA's facilities with the new or reduced rates highlighted in yellow.</p> <p>These tables are available at the public hearings and online at the project website mdta.maryland.gov/TollModernization/Home</p>	<i>Quick showing of all the boards showing the toll tables.</i>
28	With the Toll Modernization proposal, the MDTA is making its new tolling system work for Marylanders, saving you money and time, and providing you with the best possible service.	<i>Photos of facilities</i>
29	This new package of \$28 million in savings for our customers over a five-year period would be the third round of historic toll relief during the Hogan Administration, including a 2015 toll rollback and a 2018 initiative for free E-ZPass transponders.	<i>Keeping \$ in Your Pocket</i>
30	Thank you for being here tonight to comment on the toll modernization proposal. The MDTA Board will review your comments as part of the official record.	<i>Thank You for Your Comments</i>
31	You may also submit your comments via the project website mdta.maryland.gov/TollModernization/Home	<i>Mdta.maryland.gov/TollModernization/Home</i>
32	<p>or by mail to: MDTA Toll Comment 2310 Broening Highway Baltimore, MD 21224</p>	<i>Photo of woman mailing comment</i>
33	A Toll Hearing Final Report will be submitted on October 31 for review by the MDTA Board and will be posted online for additional public comment. The Board is scheduled to vote on a final recommendation at its November 21 meeting.	<i>Next Steps...</i>
34	Thank you again for your interest. We appreciate your comments and feedback.	<i>Thank you!</i>