

media release

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Scheduled toll increase to take effect on Pocahontas 895

Increase of a quarter at Main Plaza applies only during weekday commute times

RICHMOND, Va. (Jan. 28, 2011) – Pocahontas 895 is implementing a scheduled toll price increase beginning on Monday, February 7. Two-axle passenger vehicles passing through the Main Plaza will pay an extra quarter, but only during morning and afternoon commute times – between the hours of 6 and 9 a.m., and 3 and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tolls will remain the same, however, for two-axle vehicles traveling outside of weekday commute times, and on weekends.

“We hope that limiting the toll increase to only part of the day will make it a little easier for our customers, and give them some flexibility to travel on Pocahontas 895 at a lower rate as their schedules may permit,” said Kevin Longenbach, vice president of operations and development for Transurban, which manages Pocahontas 895.

Longenbach noted that the increase is short of the scheduled increase permitted under Transurban’s partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation. He added that Pocahontas 895 receives no federal or state dollars and that funding for its operation and maintenance comes solely from user fees in the form of tolls.

Tolls also will go up a quarter for customers traveling between Interstate 295 and the Laburnum Avenue exit without passing through the Main Plaza, and for multi-axle vehicles, which are currently charged \$1 additional for every axle over two. (See chart at the end of this release for details.)

“We think customers are getting a lot of value for the extra quarter, especially now that the new Richmond Airport Connector Road is open,” said Longenbach, who oversees the operation of Pocahontas 895. “The Connector offers a no-lights, non-stop route to Richmond International Airport. Drivers may save up to 10 minutes on a trip to catch a plane, especially for those coming from Chesterfield County and the Tri-Cities.”

The 1.6-mile Airport Connector road, which opened to traffic Jan. 14, leads directly into the heart of Richmond International Airport, linking Pocahontas 895 to Airport Drive at Charles City Road. Customers who pay the toll at the Main Plaza are not charged again to use the Airport Connector.

Customers traveling on the Airport Connector to I-295 do not pass through the Main Plaza and are charged \$1.25 at the east-side ramps.

Longenbach noted that Pocahontas 895 customers also are benefiting from an upgrade to the toll collection system that was completed last year. The new system offers improved technology and processing capabilities, as well as cashless automated payment convenience at both the Laburnum and Airport Connector ramps, where tolls are collected via E-ZPass™, Visa or Mastercard credit or debit cards. (Cash is still accepted at the Main Toll Plaza along with E-ZPass™, Visa and Mastercard.)

Pocahontas 895 tolls are controlled by an agreement between VDOT and Transurban (895) LLC entered into in June 2006, when Transurban acquired management rights to the parkway. The agreement caps toll increases and ensures toll schedules are transparent to the public so that customers always know what the maximum toll can be at any given time.

Transurban has previously elected to not implement the maximum toll price permitted under the schedule. In January 2008, Transurban was permitted to charge 50 cents more but phased in the increase, implementing half in 2008 and the other half in 2009. Keeping 2011 toll prices at \$2.75 for all but a few weekday hours

amounts to a “partial” increase, Longenbach said, and allows many Pocahontas 895 customers to continue to use the road at the lower cost.

“Our process for communicating toll price increases is very open and straightforward,” Longenbach added. “All increases are publicly available on our Web site. We think it’s important that our customers always know what to expect.”

Longenbach said that using Pocahontas 895 provides drivers with substantial savings in time and gas, making the tolls a good value. The road, which connects Chippenham Parkway in Chesterfield County with Interstate 295 in Henrico County, includes an elevated bridge that provides the only James River crossing for six miles in either direction.

“Pocahontas 895 offers a reliable, congestion-free shortcut to Richmond International Airport, Virginia’s beaches, and other great destinations,” Longenbach said. “The new Airport Connector also will aid businesses by promoting more efficient shipments in and out of the airport, and will help stimulate economic growth in eastern Henrico County. The construction project itself benefited the local economy by providing jobs during a tough time of recession.”

Pocahontas 895 tolls are used to pay down the road’s construction debt and also support many maintenance and improvement projects, including:

- Microsurfacing strategy to preserve and extend pavement life, and to reduce ongoing maintenance costs.
- Regular bridge maintenance and inspection.
- Safety signage at all ramp locations.
- Security cameras in place along the roadway, from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge to the New Market/Laburnum exit.
- Additional sensors on the bridge to detect wind, temperature and form of precipitation, to provide added safety to drivers during inclement weather.
- Variable message signs to aid in communications with the driving public.
- Increased security and camera protection in the toll plaza and office areas.

More information, including the [schedule of toll price increases](http://www.pocahontas895.com), is available at www.pocahontas895.com.

Pocahontas 895 toll price chart

TOLL POINT	2011 TOLL: 2 AXLES	2011 TOLL: 3+ AXLES
Main Plaza – Commuting Hours 6:00-9:00 a.m. & 3:00-6:00 p.m. weekdays E-ZPass, Visa/Mastercard, cash (no additional toll to exit at Laburnum or the Airport Connector)	\$3.00	3 axles: \$4.00 4 axles: \$5.00 5 axles: \$6.00 6 axles: \$7.00
Main Plaza – Non-Commuting Hours All other weekday times & weekends E-ZPass, Visa/Mastercard, cash (no additional toll to exit at Laburnum or the Airport Connector)	\$2.75	3 axles: \$4.00 4 axles: \$5.00 5 axles: \$6.00 6 axles: \$7.00
Laburnum Avenue to/from Interstate 295 (no Main Plaza toll) E-ZPass, Visa/Mastercard	\$1.25	\$1.25
Airport Connector to/from Interstate 295 (no Main Plaza toll) E-ZPass, Visa/Mastercard	\$1.25	\$1.25

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