

# media release

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## **Pocahontas 895 to take staged approach to scheduled toll price increase**

Tolls will increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50 at the main toll plaza on Pocahontas 895 beginning Jan.14, 2008.

This is a scheduled increase in line with the public schedule of capped toll increases that was put in place to ensure fair toll increases when VDOT transferred responsibility for management of Pocahontas 895 to Transurban in June 2006.

While the schedule actually allows for a 50-cent increase to \$2.75 in January 2008, Transurban – in consultation with VDOT – has chosen to gradually introduce the increase in two 25-cent increments.

Motorists will receive information through the media, direct mail, roadway signs and other communication channels to ensure Pocahontas 895 users are aware of this change.

The next increase to \$2.75 will occur no earlier than Jan. 1, 2009 and will also follow a period of advance notice to customers.

At the Laburnum Ramp, Transurban has decided there will be no increase in the \$0.75 toll at all until January 2009 at the earliest.

The temporary 25-cent E-Z Pass discount that was put in place when the highway opened in 2004 will be removed to make the tolls paid by E-Z Pass users equal to the tolls paid by cash users.

“We felt that increasing tolls in two stages rather than all at once would make it easier for our customers to adjust to the new toll prices,” says Michael Whelan, Pocahontas 895’s Vice President of Operations.

“Our customers tell us they value the time they save using Pocahontas 895 to spend more time on the important things in their lives rather than sitting in traffic – especially busy commuters travelling from Chesterfield to the Airport who are saving up to 15 minutes per trip.

“And it is our priority to ensure that customers continue to receive best value for the tolls they pay to use Pocahontas 895,” said Mr. Whelan.

In line with this commitment, Transurban is working to enhance road operations and customer service, including:

- Building a 1.6-mile connector road linking Pocahontas 895 directly with the Richmond International Airport by 2011.
- Enhancing the road's security systems – including installation of cameras to monitor toll booths and parts of the road, wind monitoring on the bridge and temperature sensors to help manage snow and ice.
- Improving landscaping and signage on the road – including a five-year landscaping program using indigenous plants.
- Adding new safety, directional and customer information signage on the road.

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	Current toll	Toll permitted January, 2008	New toll Jan. 14, 2008	Toll Price on or after Jan. 1, 2009
<b>Mainline toll plaza <sup>(1)</sup></b>	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.75
<b>Laburnum</b>	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$1.00

The above prices are for two-axle vehicles only. The temporary \$0.25 E-ZPass discount will no longer apply as of Jan. 14 2008.

(1) Add \$1 for each additional axle.



**For further information:**

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