

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Mid-Bay Bridge Authority to provide toll relief to SunPass Frequent Customers starting January 2017

Niceville, Fla. (November 17, 2016) – After feedback and discussion from two public meetings held in October, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) voted on Thursday morning to implement a new toll schedule by reducing the monthly transaction threshold for SunPass Frequent Customers from 41 to 32 transactions. The new transaction threshold applies to both the Mid-Bay Bridge and Spence Parkway.

In the past fiscal year, the Mid-Bay Bridge showed that a total of 7.2 million transactions, with the cash toll accounting for 2.3 million or 32 percent, the SunPass Customer accounting for 3.4 million or 47 percent, and the SunPass Frequent Customer accounting for 1.5 million or 21 percent.

With the new threshold anticipated to begin in January 2017, the transaction profile is estimated to be about 30 percent cash toll, 30 percent SunPass Customer, and 40 percent SunPass Frequent Customer.

The current Mid-Bay Bridge toll schedule is as follows:

- Cash - \$4.00
- SunPass discount - \$3.00
- SunPass Frequent Customer discount (41 transactions per month) - \$2.00

In August, after data showed that the MBBA revenues are greater than originally forecasted, the Authority initiated a review of its toll schedule with the goal of providing additional relief to customers.

During Thursday's meeting, the Authority considered five main options to alter the tolls while still meeting target revenue:

1. Reducing the SunPass rate up to \$.40.
2. Reducing the monthly transaction threshold for the SunPass Frequent Customer up to 31.

3. Providing a two-tiered frequent user threshold discount.
4. Implementing an annual toll cap/pass.
5. Increasing the cash rate.

The Authority voted to implement the second option, with the threshold being set at 32.

“The Authority welcomed public participation and was provided feedback from the public information meetings,” said Van Fuller, executive director of the MBBA.

The target date for the reduced rate implementation must still be coordinated with the Florida Turnpike and is expected to be no later than January 1, 2017.

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The Authority meets regularly the third Thursday of every month, alternately at the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers and the Destin City Hall Board Room.

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About the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is a dependent special District of the State located in Okaloosa County, created in 1986 by the Florida Legislature to finance, build, and oversee a bridge across Choctawhatchee Bay along with roads connecting to it. The Authority has five voting members, appointed by the Governor and the District Three Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, or his/her designee, who serves as a non-voting member. An Executive Director and staff manage day-to-day administration of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority.

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