

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

GENERAL ORDER 100.20

REVISED OCTOBER 2014

TOLL PASSAGE ON STATE-OWNED BRIDGE/TOLL HIGHWAYS

1. POLICY.

a. Departmental personnel will be permitted passage across state-owned bridges/toll highways while operating distinctively marked Class E black-and-white or primary collision factor (PCF) vehicles without monetary payment of the toll when the vehicle is equipped with a FasTrak transponder or included in a license plate tolling system which utilizes license plate reader technology.

b. Departmental personnel responding to or returning from an urgent or emergency call, engaged in an urgent or emergency response, or directly related to an emergency response shall also be exempt from monetary payment. An urgent response or call means an incident or circumstance that requires an immediate response to a public safety related incident, but may not warrant the use of emergency warning lights.

(1) Urgent does not include any personal use, commuting, training, or administrative uses.

(2) Departmental personnel, when returning from an urgent or emergency call, or from being engaged in an urgent or emergency response shall not be exempt from monetary payment of a toll or other charges imposed while traveling on a high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane.

c. Departmental personnel traversing a state-owned bridge/toll highway in a state vehicle, conducting official business, not equipped with a FasTrak transponder or included in a license plate tolling system shall pay the required bridge/highway toll.

2. PROCEDURES.

a. Distinctively marked black-and-white or PCF vehicles assigned to Areas or Divisions having traffic control jurisdiction on various state-owned toll bridges/toll highways, having occasion to cross state-owned toll bridges/toll highways with reasonable frequency, will be equipped with a FasTrak transponder or included in a license plate tolling system.

b. Departmental personnel responding to or returning from an urgent or emergency call, engaged in an urgent or emergency response, or directly related to an emergency response shall also be exempt from monetary payment. An urgent response or call means an incident or circumstance that requires an immediate response to a public safety related incident, but may not warrant the use of emergency warning lights. Passage is not exempt from payment when returning from an urgent or emergency call while traveling on a HOT lane. Urgent does not include any personal use, commuting, training, or administrative uses.

c. Commands who regularly use a state-owned toll bridge/toll highway while operating an unmarked car with either California exempt or passenger plates will be permitted passage with a FasTrak transponder or if included in a license plate tolling system.

d. Commands should work with their local authority to ensure all applicable license plate information is provided to the toll facility operators to prevent violations.

e. Commands affected by this General Order should include procedures for obtaining FasTrak transponders or inclusion in a license plate tolling system in their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Such procedures should be coordinated with the respective bridge/highway toll collection managers and field Divisions.

3. GENERAL.

a. Department personnel traversing a state-owned bridge/toll highway in a privately-owned vehicle, although on state business, shall pay the required bridge/highway toll.

b. Should a dispute arise pertaining to toll payment, personnel will pay the toll and submit a memorandum concerning the incident to their commander for review and forwarding to the appropriate Division for resolution.

c. When it becomes necessary to pay a bridge or highway toll while on official state business, a travel expense claim may be prepared for reimbursement (refer to Highway Patrol Manual [HPM] 11.1, Administrative Procedures Manual, Chapter 2, Travel Expense).

d. Toll roads are currently operated by private entities even though they may be state-owned and patrolled by Department personnel. Areas having patrol responsibility for such roadways shall include procedures for insuring passage of Area-assigned vehicles in their SOP. All other Department personnel irrespective of the type of vehicle being driven, shall pay the toll which may or may not be

eligible for reimbursement (refer to HPM 11.1, Chapter 2), depending on the circumstances.

e. All Department personnel traversing a toll road or bridge in a private vehicle with confidential registration records pursuant to Section 1808.4 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) are responsible for paying the applicable toll. Although toll violations are civil matters, headquarters offices, Divisions, or Areas that receive toll collection notices from a toll authority for a private vehicle with confidential registration to the Department shall handle the matter as follows:

(1) If the notice is for a current employee of the Department, immediately forward the notice to the employee's commander. The commander shall ensure the employee receives the notice in a timely manner.

(2) If the notice is for a nonemployee or retired employee of the Department, the toll authority shall be advised to initiate the unpaid toll collection procedures contained in Section 40267 CVC.

(3) All commands who receive confidential registration toll collection notices from a toll authority shall include procedures in their SOP for processing the notices that is consistent with this General Order.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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