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GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP
ADVANCES PRINCIPLES FOR
PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN TOLLING

Capital Region at Critical Juncture to Reduce Congestion and Improve Mobility

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership) released a new issue brief, Tackling the Capital Region’s Roadway Congestion: Performance-Driven Tolling, the first of three regional mobility briefs on significant transportation challenges in the Capital Region of Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond.

The brief provides a roadmap for decision-makers to deliver on the potential of performance-driven tolling in the Capital Region and offers six clear and demonstrable principles that should be deployed for all new tolling facilities and when considering changes for existing tolling facilities.

“We need a serious, sustained effort across the Capital Region to address our excessive congestion, and the Partnership’s performance-driven tolling principles provide a clear roadmap for decision-makers to do just that,” said Jason Miller, CEO of the Greater Washington Partnership.

“Implementing these principles can help create a truly super-regional transportation network, and in doing so creating the connectedness needed to drive economic productivity, giving more people access to jobs, supporting better public transportation options, and guaranteeing that the public receives a high return on its investment in our infrastructure.”

Roadway congestion costs the Capital Region more than $7 billion annually, with Baltimore metro commuters losing $1,115 and Washington metro commuters losing $1,845 each year, the highest cost in the nation.

While the Capital Region is at the national forefront of using performance-driven tolling to combat roadway congestion and improve mobility and access, not all of our tolling facilities adopt performance-driven principles. As a result, our current patchwork system across the Capital...
Region’s highways means concentrated pockets of severe congestion, even at non-peak times, which are projected to get even worse in the years ahead.

Performance-driven tolling is a powerful tool, if deployed correctly, that has proven successful across the United States at reducing congestion, increasing speeds, improving reliability, enhancing access for all income levels, and providing improved travel options for all consumers. These principles were developed through extensive analysis, direct engagement with stakeholders and decision-makers, and with input from our nationally recognized Mobility Steering Committee.

The Greater Washington Partnership’s Performance-Driven Tolling Principles

1. Tolling investments should improve the transportation system, not just the tolled facility
2. Toll planning should be coordinated regionally to deliver the benefits of greater mobility and reliability to all consumers of the transportation system
3. Decision-makers should prioritize providing enhanced connectivity to the greatest number of people, not moving the most vehicles or generating the most revenue
4. Consumers of all income levels should benefit from the tolling investment, including those without the financial means to afford the tolls
5. Tolling revenue should be invested in cost-effective public transportation enhancements
6. Public agencies should conduct robust and broad public engagement to develop goals, performance metrics and public benefit assessments for each tolling project, whether delivered by the public agency or by a public-private partnership

The brief calls on decision-makers to act now, and the Partnership will continue to promote actions needed to move this agenda forward. Our roadway congestion is only projected to worsen, limiting our potential as a region, harming the quality of life of the more than 10 million people residing in the Capital Region, and reducing economic opportunity for too many. Action will require strong intra-regional collaboration among government and private stakeholders to ensure roadway tolling policies are complementary and seamless for consumers and deliver the best performance for the entire transportation system.

For questions or more information, contact Steven Chlapecka at skc@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com or call 202.871.9914.

About the Greater Washington Partnership

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs in the region, drawing from the leading employers and entrepreneurs committed to making the Capital Region—from Baltimore to Richmond—one of the world’s best places to work, raise a family and build a business. Working in collaboration with leaders across our communities, the Partnership connects and leverages the region’s extraordinary assets to advance inclusive, actionable solutions that strengthen Greater Washington as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.

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