


**New Jersey Turnpike Authority**  
Memorandum



**TO:** Richard Hammer, Chairman  
Ronald Gravino, Vice Chairman  
Michael R. DuPont, Treasurer  
Raymond M. Pocino, Commissioner  
Ulises E. Diaz, Commissioner  
Daniel F. Becht, Commissioner  
John D. Minella, Commissioner

**FROM:** Joseph W. Mrozek, Executive Director 

**DATE:** May 4, 2017

**RE:** Report of April 4, 2017 Public Hearing for Modification of Garden State Parkway ("Parkway") Toll Rate Schedule to Establish Toll on the Parkway at the New Southbound Exit 125 ramp in the Borough of Sayreville, County of Middlesex.

The Authority is currently engaged in a construction project to improve Garden State Parkway Interchange 125 (the "Project"). The Project involves completing Interchange 125, currently a partial interchange, to provide full access between the Parkway and Chevalier Avenue in Sayreville in order to accommodate existing traffic volumes and future growth resulting from the development of the waterfront. The work includes the replacement of bridges on the mainline of the Parkway, improvements to the local roadways, a new northbound Parkway entrance, a reconfigured southbound Parkway entrance, and a new southbound Parkway exit. Construction on the full interchange is anticipated to be complete by October of 2019.

Currently, Interchange 125 is only a partial interchange and no toll is charged. On or about June 30, 2017, the first phase of the Project will be sufficiently complete to allow the use of the new southbound ramp Exit 125 in Sayreville. The Authority must charge a toll at the new southbound ramp Exit 125 Sayreville to preclude patrons from using the new ramp to avoid paying the toll at the Raritan South Toll Plaza.

Therefore, the Authority is proposing to modify the Parkway Toll Rate Schedule to include this new southbound ramp Exit 125 Sayreville with all of its lanes being tolled as E-ZPass only. Cash payment for a toll at this new ramp will not be available. This will be the first E-ZPass only facility on either the Parkway or New Jersey Turnpike. The Authority is further proposing to charge the following tolls, which are the same as the E-ZPass tolls at the Raritan South mainline toll plaza, to all patrons who exit the Parkway at the new southbound ramp Exit 125 Sayreville:

*Report of April 4, 2017 Public Hearing Regarding Modification of Garden State Parkway Toll Rate Schedule to Include Tolloed Southbound Parkway Exit 125 Ramp in Sayreville*

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Vehicle Classification	Proposed Toll
Class 1	\$1.50
Class 2	\$3.00
Class 3	\$4.50
Class 4	\$6.00
Class 5	\$7.50
Class 6	\$9.00
Bus (2 or 3 Axle)	\$4.30

To effectuate this proposal, the Authority was required to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed new Parkway Toll Rate Schedule pursuant to N.J.S.A. 27:23-5.10. The public hearing was advertised in eleven (11) newspapers and on the Authority's website. On April 4, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Authority held the public hearing at its headquarters building located at 1 Turnpike Plaza, in Woodbridge, County of Middlesex. The Authority also accepted written comments from email and regular mail that were received by April 17, 2017.

Only one (1) person appeared at the public hearing to give public comment. The speaker did not comment on the proposed new toll or the corresponding toll rates. Rather, he objected that the Authority is not providing motorists with the ability to pay cash at the new ramp. The Authority also received one (1) email and one (1) mailed letter regarding the proposed modification to the Parkway Toll Rate Schedule. Both of the written comments also objected to the Authority not providing a cash payment option at the new ramp.

At the public hearing, the speaker was advised that about eighty-percent (80%) of all toll transactions on the Parkway are conducted by way of E-ZPass. Thus, the majority of the Authority's customers will not be impacted by the E-ZPass only nature of the new ramp. And cash customers, rather than using the new ramp, can continue to access Sayreville using the same route they currently use, that is, paying a cash toll at the Raritan South Toll Plaza and then exiting at Exit 124.

In light of there being no objections to modifying the Parkway Toll Rate Schedule to include a tolled southbound Parkway Exit 125 ramp in Sayreville, staff respectfully recommends that the Parkway Toll Rate Schedule be modified as proposed.

From the outset, the Project designed the new southbound Parkway Exit 125 ramp in Sayreville as an E-ZPass only facility. To add an automatic coin machine lane to the new exit ramp at this time would add close to \$1 million to the Project cost and delay the opening of the ramp by several months. In light of this, and because there were only three (3) comments opposing the Authority's proposal to not offer motorists a cash payment at the new ramp, it is further recommended that the new southbound Parkway Exit 125 ramp in Sayreville be an E-ZPass only facility as proposed.