



Supervisor Tony Buffington

Blue Ridge District

NewsFlash

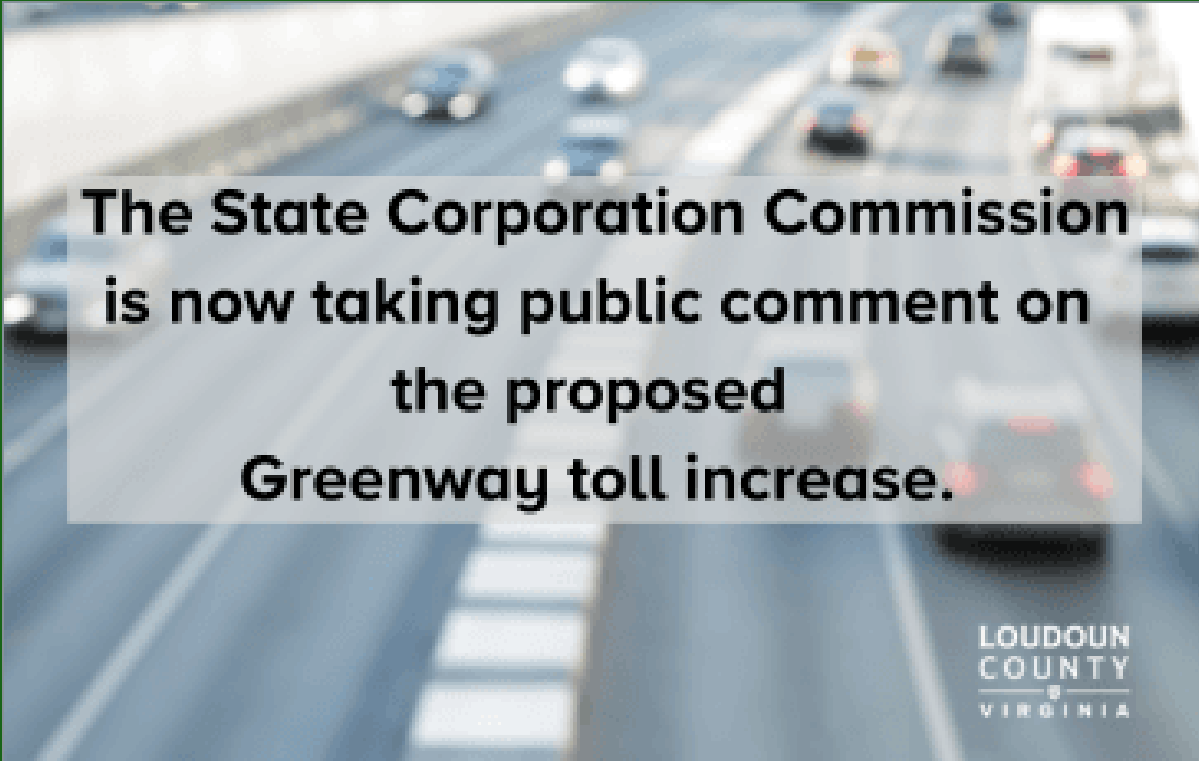


Provide Your Comments on the Requested Dulles Greenway Toll Rate Increase

Online Comment Period Open NOW Thru Jan 24

SCC Does Have Authority to Deny the Requested Increase

Sent: August 9, 2023



**The State Corporation Commission
is now taking public comment on
the proposed
Greenway toll increase.**

LOUDOUN
COUNTY
VIRGINIA

Virginia's State Corporation Commission (SCC) has opened its public comment opportunity regarding the Dulles Greenway's requested toll rate increase. If approved by the SCC, the maximum toll for most drivers would increase to \$8.10 during peak hours (up from the current \$5.80) and \$6.40 during off-peak hours (up from \$5.25). The Greenway's request is identified by the SCC as [Case # PUR-2023-00089](#).

Note: The SCC does have the authority to deny the requested Toll rate increase. Recently enacted Virginia law provides objective criteria for SCC consideration of requested Greenway toll rate increases, including requirements that requested toll rates are "reasonable" to the user in relation to the benefit they derive from using the road, and that the rates do not "materially discourage" use of the road. Loudoun County believes TRIP II's proposed rates will further discourage use of the Greenway.

Provide Your Online Comments Now Thru January 24th

Members of the public may submit online comments now through January 24. Click [HERE](#) to provide your online comment now.

Loudoun County's Position Regarding the Requested Dulles Greenway Toll Rate Increase

Loudoun County has opposed toll rate increases requested by the operators of the Dulles Greenway, Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), which filed its application for the authorization for an increase in the maximum level of tolls last month. The SCC is the entity that considers such requests.

TRIP II has requested a toll increase of 22% during off-peak hours (from \$5.25 to \$6.40) and a 40% increase during peak morning and afternoon hours (from \$5.80 to \$8.10). TRIP II claims the increases are necessary to meet its debt obligation; however, data shows that use of the Greenway is down because of its already high toll rate. Traffic on the Greenway decreased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not returned to pre-COVID levels.

To promote use of the Greenway by more motorists, Loudoun County has consistently supported changing the Greenway's toll structure to distance-based tolling while also lowering toll rates. The Greenway operator has the lawful ability to implement both changes now but has consistently decided not to do so.

Virginia law provides objective criteria for SCC consideration when evaluating requested toll rate increases, including a requirement that proposed Greenway toll rates are "reasonable" to users in relation to the benefit they are deriving from using the road so that the rates do not "materially discourage" use of the road. Loudoun County believes TRIP II's proposed rates will further discourage use of the Greenway.

Loudoun County has consistently opposed state legislation to permit automatic yearly toll rate increases of unknown amounts, and

proposals to extend the Greenway's operator's license for an unlimited period of time, as approval of such state legislation would not be good for Loudoun residents. As such, these types of Greenway supported state legislation have recently been defeated by the Virginia State Senate twice with bipartisan votes.



Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

All our best!



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