

News Release

CONTACT:

Carley Brierre (757) 793-0337

CBrierre@ERCopco.com

September 26, 2022

Toll Relief for more Downtown and Midtown Tunnel Drivers

Portsmouth, Va. – As approved by the Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) Task Force of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) on Friday, September 16, eligibility for Toll Relief has been expanded to benefit more residents. Enrollment begins on November 1, 2022.

The following changes to the Toll Relief Program will take effect November 1, 2022.

- The annual individual income requirement has been raised from \$30,000/year to \$50,000/year.
- The residency requirement has been broadened to include all jurisdictions within the [Hampton Roads Planning District](#). Previously, only residents of Norfolk and Portsmouth could enroll.
- There is no longer an enrollment deadline of February 15. It is now a rolling enrollment process. Residents can enroll for toll relief at any time and start receiving their toll discounts immediately.

These changes are a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and ERC to ease the financial burden of tolls for more drivers. “VDOT recognizes the value of partnerships in providing safe and efficient transportation for the traveling public,” says Chris Hall, VDOT District Engineer, “this collaboration will significantly increase the number of drivers who can move more effectively and economically through the region.”

The Toll Relief Program is funded by Elizabeth River Crossings. In 2023, ERC will contribute more than \$3.3 million to the program and increase that amount by 3.5% each year.

“We are very committed to this community and with this new program we want to benefit as many income-restrained residents as possible, across the entire region,” says Anna Bonet, CEO of Elizabeth River Crossings.

Through the program, eligible drivers of 2-axle vehicles with an E-ZPass transponder receive a 50% discount on up to 10 trips per week through the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels.

Residents are required to enroll in-person at the E-ZPass Centers in Norfolk or Portsmouth, or at the DriveERT Customer Care Center in Portsmouth. Residents must provide [proof of income and proof of residency](#). Participants must re-enroll each year on or before the date they enrolled the year prior. Those already in the 2021-2022 program must re-enroll by February 28, 2023. To learn more about Toll Relief, visit www.VDOTTollRelief.com.

Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC), officially Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC, is a limited liability company owned by Abertis and Manulife Investment Management. ERC's sole purpose is to finance, deliver, operate, and maintain the Elizabeth River Crossings facilities which include the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels and the MLK Freeway extension, as part of a 58-year public-private partnership (PPP or P3) with the Virginia Department of Transportation. ERC also provides incident response for the West Norfolk and Berkley Bridges, although operations of these bridges remain with VDOT.

##