TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Transportation Code, §228.003, the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may, with the approval of the Texas Transportation Commission (commission), enter into an agreement with another governmental agency or entity to independently or jointly provide services, to study the feasibility of a toll project, or to finance, construct, operate, and maintain a toll project. The department must obtain the approval of the governor to enter into an agreement with an agency of another state.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requires that all toll facilities on federal-aid highways implement technologies or business practices that provide for the interoperability of electronic toll collection programs. "Interoperability" means that all transponders can be read on all facilities and all facilities can read all transponders to provide a seamless process to all patrons on all facilities.

The department, the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), Harris County, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA), the Fort Bend Grand Parkway Toll Road Authority (GPTRA), the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) have negotiated an agreement to ensure the interoperability of toll collection systems on turnpikes, toll roads, managed lanes, toll bridges and other tolled facilities which they manage, own or operate. The agreement will supersede and replace prior agreements related to interoperability between the department, NTTA, Harris County, CTRMA and GPTRA.

The services to be performed under the agreement include the formation and operation of an Interoperability Committee, as well as collaboration and coordination of efforts to promote and achieve interoperability. The agreement allows for the use of a data-transfer and communications architecture that processes and distributes shared interoperable information and provides for the sharing of costs associated with software maintenance and upgrades and hardware and database maintenance services. The agreement sets forth a basic fee schedule to compensate each party for processing toll transactions. The agreement also allows for the entry of additional toll entities, subject to certain conditions and approval by the Interoperability Committee.

The Interoperability Committee is a body consisting of one representative from each of the Providers and one representative from each of the Subscribers. "Provider" means a party that maintains a minimum of 200,000 active customer transponder accounts for the electronic collection of tolls. "Subscriber" means a party that does not maintain a minimum of 200,000 active customer transponder accounts.

The department, NTTA, Harris County, KTA and OTA are the current Providers. Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, Brazoria County Toll Road Authority, Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority , Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, CTRMA, Chambers County Toll Road Authority, Collin County Toll Road Authority, Fort Bend Grand Parkway Toll Road Authority, Montgomery County Toll Road Authority, North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority, Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority, Waller County Toll Road Authority, and Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority are the current Subscribers.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the executive director of the department is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with NTTA, Harris County, CTRMA, GPTRA, KTA, OTA and, potentially, other toll entities across the United States, to ensure the interoperability of electronic toll collection programs, as described above, contingent upon approval by the governor.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Director, Toll Operations Division

Recommended by:

Executive Director

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