

THE ELECTRONIC TOLLING EXPERIENCE

To start taking advantage of electronic tolling in Virginia, just sign up for an E-ZPass account, then attach an E-ZPass electronic transponder to your windshield. The next time you drive on a toll road, an overhead antenna will read your transponder and automatically deduct the toll from your pre-paid account—and you'll be on your way.

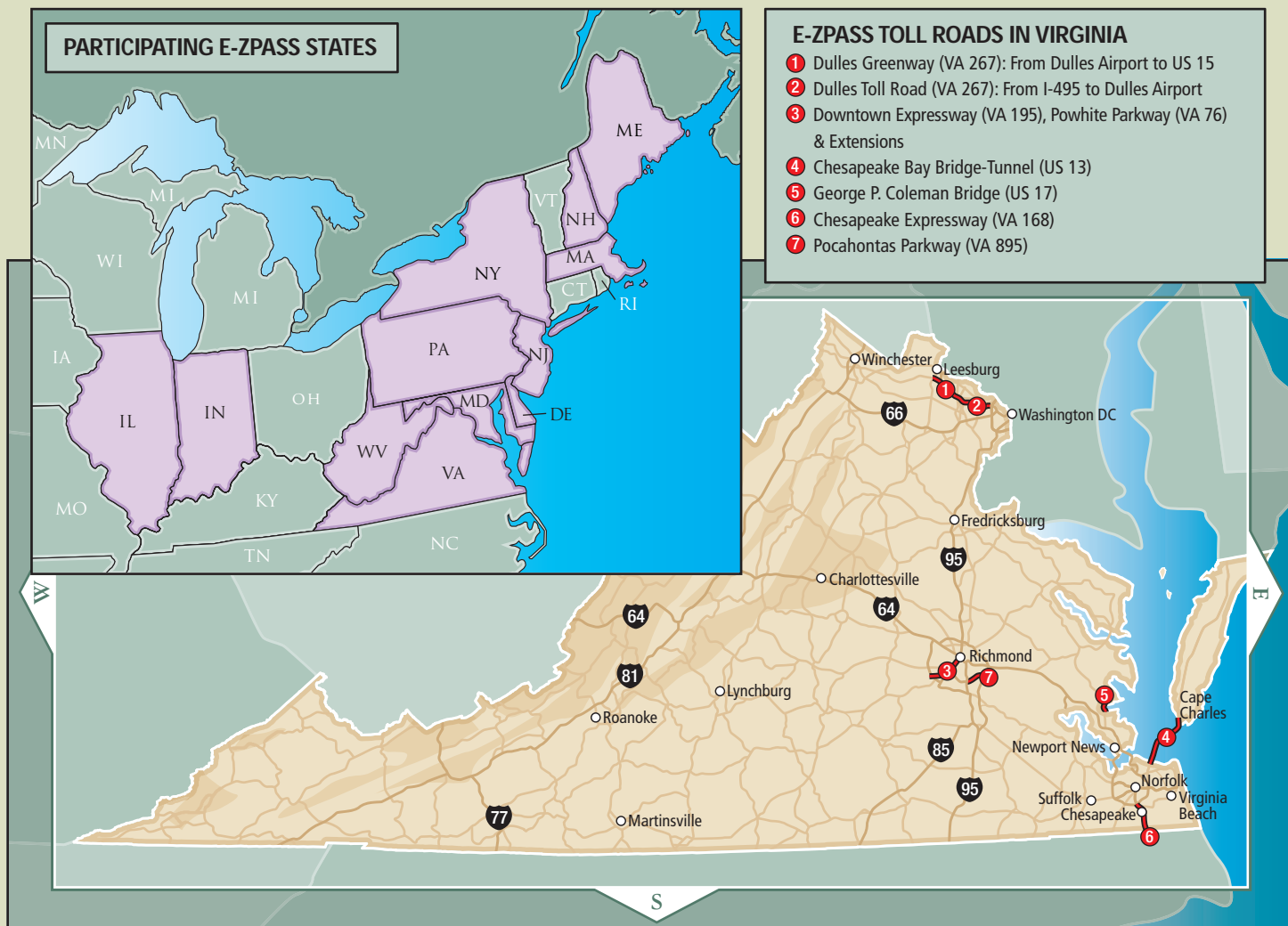
E-ZPass is accepted on all toll roads in Virginia, except the Jordan Bridge in Hampton Roads. It is also accepted in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Virginia residents can apply for E-ZPass at ezpassva.com, or by calling (877) 762-7824.

For more information on congestion pricing and tolling in Virginia, visit virginiadot.org/congestionpricing.



THEN AND NOW VIRGINIA TOLLING



While toll collection in Virginia has been around since the late 18th century, the process experienced a breakthrough in the early '90s with the emergence of electronic toll collection. Virginia's first system to use this technology was Fastoll, introduced in 1996 and later renamed Smart Tag. Motorists using Smart Tag didn't have to worry about carrying cash, because electronic readers automatically deducted tolls from their accounts when passing through the toll lanes.

Smart Tag later became known as E-ZPass, joining a multi-state electronic toll network. And the technology is still evolving. In 2002, Pocahontas 895 opened south of Richmond, offering Virginia its first open road tolling experience. Soon, Virginia will begin using tolling as a form of traffic management, utilizing new Congestion Pricing strategies like HOT lanes.



WHO BENEFITS FROM ELECTRONIC TOLLING?

Electronic tolling offers advantages not only to the people who drive on toll roads, but also to other area drivers and to the community as a whole. Here are some of its most common benefits:

SAVING TIME

- No Stopping – with an electronic transponder in your car automatically paying tolls, you no longer have to slow down and stop at tollbooths
- No Need for Cash or Change – traveling on toll roads is faster and more efficient when you don't have to search for exact change

SAVING MONEY

- Reduced Gas Costs – by decreasing the amount of time you spend waiting in line at tollbooths, you'll waste less gasoline
- Maximizes return on the public's investment in highways, by preventing the loss of traffic flow
- Revenue Improves Transportation – funds generated by tolls are used to improve transportation choices in the area

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Improved Air Quality – fewer cars idling in line at toll plazas means less greenhouse gas emissions released into the air
- Greener Growth – reducing emissions on toll roads allows the entire transportation system to expand without exceeding government emissions



BENEFITS OF CONGESTION PRICING:

- Reduces traffic congestion, delays and stress
- Offers motorists reliable, predictable travel times
- Encourages ridesharing and transit use



FUTURE TOLLING IN VIRGINIA

Virginians will continue to see toll roads with fixed-priced tolls. And, in the future, they will begin driving on roads that use congestion pricing utilizing the next generation of electronic tolling. These methods take full advantage of current and future electronic tolling technology, using its ease and flexibility to actually *reduce congestion* and *improve traffic flow*. This technique is called Congestion Pricing, and it's being used successfully in states like Texas, Florida and Minnesota to collect revenue and manage traffic demand.

VARIABLY PRICED TOLLS

Congestion Pricing aims to reduce rush-hour traffic by providing a financial incentive to use alternative transportation modes (like carpools and transit) or to travel during off-peak periods. This is typically accomplished by *varying toll prices* based on the time of day or the amount of traffic on the road. If traffic is heavy, the toll is higher—if traffic is light, the toll is lower. Toll rates for different time periods may be set in advance, or they may be set "dynamically," meaning tolls could increase or decrease every few minutes to ensure that the lanes are fully used without a breakdown in traffic flow. Either way, the current toll price is always clearly identified and does not change after you enter the tolled section of road. By using variable pricing to remove even a small percentage of the vehicles from a congested roadway, Congestion Pricing enables traffic to flow much more efficiently.

Some roadways adopting Congestion Pricing strategies use variable pricing on all lanes, while others maintain some regular, free lanes, converting the remaining lanes (or the existing HOV lanes) into High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. In HOT lanes, low or Single Occupancy Vehicles are charged a toll, while High Occupancy Vehicles like carpools, vanpools, public transit buses, motorcycles and emergency vehicles are allowed to use the lanes free of charge or at reduced rates. To use HOT lanes, motorists must either meet the minimum vehicle passenger requirements to ride free or choose to pay a toll. Drivers who choose not to use HOT lanes can always remain in the regular lanes for free.

