

**Report to the Chairperson and the Members
of the Transportation
Strategic Policy Committee**

*Report on the Public Consultation for the
Draft East Link Toll Bye-Laws 2020*

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Introduction

At the January 2020 meeting of the Transportation SPC, the members agreed that the draft East Link Toll Bye Laws go to the February Meeting of the City Council seeking approval to initiate a period of public consultation. Dublin City Council at the monthly meeting held on 3rd February 2020 approved the initiation of the public consultation process in relation to formulation of the Draft Eastlink Toll Bye-Laws 2020 as outlined in Report 75/2020. The National Transport Authority and An Garda Síochána have also been consulted in relation to these draft Bye -Laws.

It is proposed to update the East Link Toll Bye Laws and to change the toll rates in line with that agreed by the elected members at the statutory budget meeting on the 25th November 2019.

The main changes in the Bye Laws are :-

1. Increase in toll rates.
2. The use of the consumer price index rather than the Wholesale price index for the calculation of any future increases.
3. A new class of vehicle which will have five axle or greater has been created.
4. The Five axle vehicle will pay a Nil toll during the hours of operation of the HGV Cordon in the city centre provided the vehicle has not been in breach of the HGV cordon.
5. The Ringsend Toll Bridge DAC a wholly owned company of DCC is the Toll operator on DCC's behalf.

The proposed changes in toll rates are as set out below. :-

	Existing	Proposed from May 1 st 2020
Private Motor Cars.....	€1.40	1.90
Buses & Coaches.....	€2.10	2.90
Vans.....	€2.10	2.90
2 axle HGV.....	€2.85	3.90
3 Axle HGV.....	€3.50	4.80
4 Axle HGV.....	€4.25	5.80
5+ Axle HGV -----	€4.25	5.80

Pedestrians, cyclists, motor bikes, emergency vehicles, specially adapted vehicles driven by disabled persons and marked vehicles used by the Gardai, defence forces and Dublin City Council are all exempt from tolls. In addition 5+ axle HGVs during the hours of operation of the HGV cordon are also exempt from tolls.

Under the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) a period of public consultation has been completed and consultation also has taken place with the Garda Commissioner and the National Transport Authority neither of which raised any objections.

Change of Toll Rate 2017

It should be noted that following a ruling from the Revenue Commissioners that VAT no longer should be charged on the tolls at the East link, DCC removed the VAT element of tolls from the 18th of August 2017 and this reduced the cost of the toll for cars from €1.75 to €1.40, this change did not require any alterations to bye laws.

Submissions:

Notice of the Public Consultation appeared in the Irish Independent on Wednesday 12th February 2020. The Public Consultation commenced on 12th February 2020 and concluded on 25th March 2020. The public were invited to make their submissions either by post or online. A total of 4 online submissions were received. No submissions were received by post.

- Two were in favour of the proposed changes.
- One requested the motorcycle rate continues to remain free and there is no change in the bye laws with motorbikes being free.
- One submission highlighted a number of technical corrections they wished to see made in the Bye-Laws and these have been reviewed by the Law Department.

The purpose of this report is:

- To set out the responses to the issues raised in the submissions and comments
- To make recommendations on amendments/review of the East Link Toll Bye-Laws 2020.

Covid 19

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the report on the consultation and the changes to the bye laws were deferred to a more appropriate time. As traffic on the bridge is now back to 85% of 2019 figures and as the easing of restrictions continues, it is now appropriate that this report be now considered and the elected members be asked to implement the proposed new bye laws. Any toll changes would come into effect from 2022.

Recommendation:

As no objections to the proposed Draft East Link Toll Bye-Laws have been received, it is proposed to request the elected members at the October City Council meeting to consider this report and approve the draft East Link Toll Bye-Laws.

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