

ADDING NEW TOLL ROADS

Description

Toll roads provide an alternative method of financing transportation construction costs. Toll facilities include toll roads, tunnels, and bridges. Traditionally a toll is due when the patron passes a toll collection point. Advances in technology in the last few years, such as global positioning systems (GPS), are redefining the concept of physical toll points. The traditional toll booths or 'coin buckets' are being replaced with virtual toll points (geofences) that can be used to electronically toll a roadway using the vehicle's position.

The users of the toll facility (rather than the general public) pay for the construction of the facility, freeing public resources for other uses. Many of the negative aspects associated with toll roads—slow speeds, congested traffic flow, and coin-tossing—have been overcome by the electronic toll collection technology that allows toll collection at highway speeds.



URS Corporation

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| Cost: | ●●●● |
| Time: | Moderate |
| Impact: | Facility |
| Who: | Toll Authority |
| Hurdles: | Funding |

Target Market

Toll roads may be appropriate for a broad spectrum of corridors or roadways within those corridors in cities of many sizes. In general, tolls can be used to finance the initial construction of new roads, the reconstruction or rehabilitation of existing toll roads, and the reconstruction and widening of existing non-toll roads.

How Will This Help?

- Provides a mechanism to fund a project where no public funds are available or are limited.
- Accelerates implementation of projects that are funded or partially funded.
- Revenues can be used to fund other transportation infrastructure needs in the region, or to support operations and maintenance activities on other non-toll roads.

Implementation Issues

The top hurdles for adding new toll roads or adding tolls to existing facilities to pay for reconstruction, expansion, or O&M are

- securing funding, particularly now that many toll facilities have been experiencing decreasing traffic and revenues,
- obtaining the proper environmental clearances, usually a time consuming process that can significantly delay any project, and
- addressing the public reluctance to pay for tolls, which are generally seen as another tax.