



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the ICC?

The ICC will be a new six-lane toll highway that connects I-370 in eastern Montgomery County to the I-95/US 1 corridor in northwestern Prince George's County. ICC tolls will be collected at highway speeds using *E-ZPass*® technology as vehicles pass under tolling structures. There will be no toll booths or cash toll collection on the ICC. The ICC will be a variably priced toll facility, with higher tolls during peak-travel times (Monday – Friday, 6 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls when traffic volumes are lower. Providing a travel alternative – with more predictable travel times – to overcrowded local roads, the ICC will be a multi-modal roadway with limited points of access.

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) will own and operate the ICC as the State's first all-electronic toll facility. The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), part of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), is managing design and construction of the \$2.5 billion project.

2. When will the ICC open to traffic?

The first segment of the ICC scheduled to open is the 5.65 miles between I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in Rockville/Olney in late 2010/early 2011. The second segment between Georgia Avenue and I-95 in Laurel is expected to open late 2011/early 2012. Final construction elements on the highway's eastern side, as well as dozens of environmental mitigation and stewardship projects, will continue beyond 2011.

3. Where are the entry and exit points for the ICC between I-370 and I-95?

The ICC will include interchanges at the following locations:

- I-370 at Shady Grove (available when first segment opens late 2010/early 2011)
- MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) (available when first segment opens late 2010/early 2011)
- MD 182 (Layhill Road)
- MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue)
- US 29 (Columbia Pike)
- Briggs Chaney Road (Drivers can access eastbound ICC from Briggs Chaney Road. Briggs Chaney Road may only be accessed from westbound ICC.)
- I-95 in Laurel

4. Why is the ICC a toll road?

Tolling the ICC will help manage congestion to provide reliable and reduced travel times during incident-free conditions – a key purpose of the highway – and greater convenience for both drivers and transit users. With higher tolls during peak-travel times and reduced tolls when traffic volumes are lower, similar to Metro fares, the ICC will have generally free-flowing traffic, even during peak periods like morning and afternoon rush hours.

Tolling also provides funds for financing, operating and maintaining a large transportation project like the ICC. Without tolling, the ICC could not have been built. Conventional transportation funding was insufficient to build the ICC.

5. Why should I use the ICC? What are its benefits?

Whether you're traveling to get your children from daycare on time, to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport to catch your flight or making your regular commute, the ICC can benefit you. The relatively free-flowing traffic conditions on this variably priced toll facility can save valuable time for users.

Drivers can expect an average 50% reduction in their travel times when the first segment of the ICC between I-370 at Shady Grove and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) opens in late 2010/early 2011. A trip between Shady Grove Metro station and Georgia Avenue using existing local roadways (Shady Grove Road to MD 115 to MD 28) during the rush hour currently takes approximately 22 – 23 minutes. Using the first segment of the ICC when it opens, this same trip would take seven minutes at 55 mph. This equates to an almost 70% reduction in travel time.

When your time is valuable, the ICC will work for you.

6. How much will it cost to use the ICC?

It will cost drivers of cars and light trucks \$0.25/mile in Peak times, \$0.20/mile Off-peak and \$0.10/mile Overnight to use the first 5.65 tolled miles of the ICC. To travel this first segment of the ICC from I-370 at Shady Grove to Georgia Avenue, it will cost most drivers \$1.45 during Peak hours, \$1.15 during Off-peak times and \$0.60 Overnight. These toll rates are set at the low end of the ICC tolling plan approved by the MDTA Board in December 2009 (available at www.mdtamaryland.gov/TollFacilities/ICC.html).



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6. How much will it cost to use the ICC (cont)?

Pricing Period	2 Axle Rate	3 Axle Rate	4 Axle Rate	5 Axle Rate	6+ Axle Rate
Peak Period* (Mon – Fri, 6 - 9am; 4 - 7pm) – excluding federal holidays	\$ 1.45	\$ 4.25	\$ 6.35	\$ 8.50	\$ 10.60
Off-Peak Period* (Mon – Fri, 5 - 6am; 9am - 4pm; 7 - 11pm; Sat & Sun 5am – 11pm)	\$ 1.15	\$ 3.40	\$ 5.10	\$ 6.80	\$ 8.50
Overnight Period* (11pm - 5am Daily)	\$ 0.60	\$ 1.70	\$ 2.55	\$ 3.40	\$ 4.25

*Pricing periods may vary by up to 60 minutes earlier and/or later. MDTA will provide at least 10 days notice of a change to a pricing period.

7. Can the toll rates change on the ICC?

Since the ICC is a variably priced toll facility, its toll rates change -- or vary -- by time of day and day of the week according to the pricing periods described above. While the MDTA will continuously monitor traffic volumes on the ICC, toll rates will not change minute by minute in response to real-time traffic volumes on the highway. To manage travel demand and congestion and to help meet revenue needs, ICC toll rates will be reviewed periodically - likely quarterly - and may be changed by providing at least 10 days notice of any change that is within the rate ranges approved by the MDTA Board. Changes to the mileage-rate ranges require a 60-day public comment period.

8. When will MDTA set the toll rates for the ICC from I-370 to I-95 in Laurel?

The MDTA will set the toll rates for these 16 miles as we get closer to opening the ICC to I-95 in late 2011/early 2012. The toll rates will be set within the approved tolling plan.

9. Will I have to pay tolls on I-370 (between I-270 and the Shady Grove Road/Metro Access Road interchange)?

No, you will not be charged a toll on I-370. The actual 16 tolled miles of the ICC begin after the Shady Grove Road/Metro Access Road interchange and extend to I-95 in Laurel.

10. How is the ICC different from other Maryland toll facilities?

The ICC is different from other toll facilities in Maryland because it is a variably priced toll facility, with higher tolls during peak-travel times (Monday - Friday, 6 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 7 p.m.) and reduced tolls when traffic volumes are lower. Generally, raising the toll rate during a particular period reduces the number of vehicles using the highway. Toll rates at the State's seven existing toll facilities do not change based on time of day or day of the week. For example, drivers of cars and light trucks pay a standard \$2 toll for a one-way trip at the Fort McHenry Tunnel in Baltimore no matter when they travel.

11. How do I pay to use the ICC?

Tolls will be paid electronically at highway speeds using *E-ZPass*® as vehicles pass underneath overhead tolling structures. Since there will be no toll plazas on the ICC, tolls cannot be paid in cash. All-electronic tolling on the ICC helps to maintain free-flowing traffic conditions and improve air quality by eliminating stop-and-go traffic at toll plazas.

12. What is E-ZPass and how do I get one?

E-ZPass is electronic toll-collection technology used at toll facilities in the Northeastern United States, from Virginia to Maine. With *E-ZPass*, drivers set up a pre-paid account and place a small, plastic device called a transponder or tag on the inside of their vehicles' windshields. Their tolls are automatically deducted from their accounts when they travel through specially-equipped toll plazas (or beneath tolling structures as on ICC) with the transponder in their vehicles.

To get *E-ZPass*, visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll online or get a list of *E-ZPass* "On the Go" retail locations, including local Motor Vehicle Administration offices in Gaithersburg (15 Metropolitan Grove Road) and Beltsville (11760 Baltimore Avenue). *E-ZPass* Stop-in Centers are also located at most Maryland toll facilities.

13. Can I use the ICC without an E-ZPass?

Although *E-ZPass* is the most convenient and easiest way to pay for your toll, you can pay the toll via an alternative process after your trip if you do not have *E-ZPass*. Upon entering the ICC, a photo of your license plate will be taken to allow us to look up the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration. A statement will be sent to that address for the amount of the toll plus a \$3.00 Notice of Toll Due service charge per transaction.

14. Why is there an additional \$3.00 charge if I don't have an E-ZPass account?

The cost to the MDTA to collect these non- *E-ZPass* tolls is significantly higher than the cost to collect tolls via *E-ZPass* transponders. This fee helps recover those costs. The \$3.00 Notice of Toll Due service charge applies to all toll facilities in Maryland anytime someone goes through an all-electronic toll lane without a valid *E-ZPass* account, and a Notice of Toll Due statement is generated. This charge helps offset the cost of looking up the information, printing and mailing the statement, and any subsequent actions needed to recover the toll.

15. Can I use an E-ZPass from another state on the ICC?

The MDTA accepts any valid *E-ZPass* account issued by any state for payment of tolls on the ICC and at all Maryland toll facilities

