

**Resolution**  
**To Approve a Volume Discount Program Transition**  
**10/18/12**

**Whereas**, on August 16th, the Authority adopted an Order and Findings to set new tolls on the Maine Turnpike and convert the existing commuter discount program to a broader based volume discount;

**Whereas**, a volume discount is preferable to the existing program for many reasons:

- it allows all MTA automobile users to qualify for discounted tolls without having to sign up for a special program;
- it does not require customers to prepay a large lump sum every three months for trips they may not use;
- it allows members of the same family on one account to combine monthly trips to increase the level of discount;
- it is easier for users to understand and for the MTA to administer;
- it will decrease administrative costs and increase the appeal of E-ZPass;
- it allows for all E-Z Pass transponders to be pre-programmed for discounts, making it possible to sell them through third party vendors and the MTA website;

**Whereas**, the benefits of the volume discount, including ease of use and the ability to market through different venues, will increase the percentage of MTA users who pay tolls electronically; this will, in turn, alleviate road congestion, reduce turnpike operating costs, eliminate future capital needs, increase efficiency, and improve the feasibility of Open Road and All Electronic Tolling;

**For the foregoing reasons**, the Authority confirms it's decision of August 16th to replace the existing commuter discount with a volume based discount program effective November 1st, 2012.

**However**, the Authority recognizes that some users of the existing program have benefitted from large percentage discounts as compared to rates for cash or regular E-ZPass; in some cases, discounts have greatly exceeded the 50% bench mark identified in the 1982 statute establishing the commuter program;

**Whereas**, some of these extreme discounts have resulted in prices equivalent to only one or two cents per mile, compared to a standard E-ZPass rate of 6.7¢ (rising to 7.7% on November 1);

**Whereas**, participants in the commuter program have requested to phase in the new discount program so that a participant's existing rate would be raised in stages;

**Whereas**, acting under direction from the Authority's board to develop a plan to lessen the impact of the increase, Authority staff has proposed a 25% discount on tolls for a family that takes over 30 Turnpike trips in a month and a 50% discount for a family that takes over 40 trips in a month, with discount levels to adjust to originally ordered levels on July 1st, 2013, all as described in a document titled "MTA Staff Proposal for Volume Discount Transition", dated October 12, 2012, which document is attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein.

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved as Follows:**

That the Authority's decision of August 16th is confirmed in all respects except that from November 1st, 2012 through June 30th, 2013, the discount levels available under the Authority's Volume Discount Program will be 25% for accounts with 30-39 trips a month, and 50% for accounts with 40 trips or more per month, as described in the MTA Staff Proposal for Volume Discount Transition.