

September 30, 2020 AGENDA ITEM #4

Prohibit the operation of certain vehicles on Mobility Authority toll facilities pursuant to the Habitual Violator Program

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility

Department: Operations

Contact: Tracie Brown, Director of Operations

Associated Costs: Not applicable

Funding Source: Not applicable

Action Requested: Consider and act on draft resolution

Summary:

<u>Background:</u> The Mobility Authority's habitual violator process prescribes two notices before habitual violator remedies go into effect. A pre-determination letter is sent 60 days before any remedies are enforced advising the customer again of their outstanding balance and providing an opportunity for resolution. Assuming no resolution, a *Notice of Determination* is mailed notifying the customer they've been determined to be a habitual violator and advising of the consequences. The customer is also informed of their right to appeal the decision and the process by which to do so.

If the customer does not contact the Authority to appeal the habitual violator determination or resolve their outstanding balance, a block is placed on the related vehicle's registration preventing renewal. The block remains in effect until all tolls and fees have been paid, a payment plan has been arranged with the Mobility Authority or the customer is determined to no longer be a habitual violator.

<u>Current Action:</u> State law states that persons deemed to be habitual violators may also be prohibited from use of the Mobility Authority's toll facilities by order of the Board of Directors. Habitual violator customers operating a vehicle in violation of a ban are subject to a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500. A second or subsequent occurrence may result in impoundment of the vehicle. Similar to registration blocks, vehicle bans remain in effect until all outstanding amounts owed to the Authority have been resolved or the customer is no longer deemed a habitual violator.

<u>Action Requested/Staff Recommendation:</u> Staff affirms that all required steps have been followed and proper notice previously provided to customers determined to be habitual violators. To date, these customers have not appealed this determination or resolved their outstanding balances.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the order prohibiting certain vehicles from use of the Authority's toll facilities. Following the Board's approval of this order, a Notice of Prohibition will be mailed by first class mail advising of the ban, consequences if the ban is violated and how the customer may resolve their outstanding balance.

Financing: Not applicable

Backup Provided: Draft Resolution

Habitual Violator Vehicle Ban FAQs

GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0XX

PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES ON MOBILITY AUTHORITY TOLL FACILITIES PURSUANT TO THE HABITUAL VIOLATOR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Transportation Code, Chapter 372, Subchapter C, authorizes toll project entities, including the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority), to exercise various remedies against certain motorists with unpaid toll violations; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.106 provides that a "habitual violator" is a registered owner of a vehicle who a toll project entity determines:

- (1) was issued at least two written notices of nonpayment that contained:
 - (A) in the aggregate, 100 or more events of nonpayment within a period of one year, not including events of nonpayment for which: (i) the registered owner has provided to the toll project entity information establishing that the vehicle was subject to a lease at the time of nonpayment, as provided by applicable toll project entity law; or (ii) a defense of theft at the time of the nonpayment has been established as provided by applicable toll project entity law; and
 - (B) a warning that the failure to pay the amounts specified in the notices may result in the toll project entity's exercise of habitual violator remedies; and
- (2) has not paid in full the total amount due for tolls and administrative fees under those notices; and

WHEREAS, the Mobility Authority previously determined that the individuals listed in <u>Exhibit A</u> are habitual violators, and these determinations are now considered final in accordance with Transportation Code, Chapter 372, Subchapter C; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.109 provides that a final determination that a person is a habitual violator remains in effect until (1) the total amount due for the person's tolls and administrative fees is paid; or (2) the toll project entity, in its sole discretion, determines that the amount has been otherwise addressed; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.110 provides that a toll project entity, by order of its governing body, may prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle on a toll project of the entity if: (1) the registered owner of the vehicle has been finally determined to be a habitual violator; and

(2) the toll project entity has provided notice of the prohibition order to the registered owner; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director recommends that the Board prohibit the operation of the motor vehicles listed in <u>Exhibit A</u> on the Mobility Authority's toll roads, including (1) 183A Toll; (2) 290 Toll; (3) 71 Toll; (4) MoPac Express Lanes; (5) 45 SW Toll; and (6) 183S Toll.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the motor vehicles listed in <u>Exhibit A</u> are prohibited from operation on the Mobility Authority's toll roads, effective September 30, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mobility Authority shall provide notice of this resolution to the individuals listed in <u>Exhibit A</u>, as required by Transportation Code §372.110; and

BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the prohibition shall remain in effect for the motor vehicles listed in <u>Exhibit A</u> until the respective habitual violator determinations are terminated, as provided by Transportation Code §372.110.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 30th day of September 2020.

Submitted and reviewed by:	Approved:
Geoffrey Petrov, General Counsel	Robert W. Jenkins, Jr. Chairman, Board of Directors

Exhibit A

LIST OF PROHIBITED VEHICLES

(To be provided at the Board Meeting)