Establishment of Administrative Fees & Collections Process

Statutory Authority:

The Transportation Modernization Act of 2023 (<u>Public Chapter 159</u>) provided the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) with the authority to establish user fee facilities (Choice Lanes) on new facilities opened on or after July 1, 2023, and on existing facilities where one or more new vehicle lanes are added to the facility on or after July 1, 2023.

By adding capacity to this heavily traveled roadway, operations are expected to improve in this major growth area. Choice Lanes provide another option for motorists to bypass congestion, allowing motorists to maintain consistent travel times. The Choice Lanes would be new, optional lanes designed, built, financed, operated, and maintained by a private-sector partner through a Public-Private Partnership (P3).

TCA 54-3-114(d) requires TDOT, with the approval of the Board, to establish administrative fees for the collection of unpaid user fees and the procedures for the collection of unpaid user fees and applicable administrative fees.

TDOT's Proposed Administrative Fee Schedule and Collections Process

If payment of a user fee is not paid via electronic transponder, for each invoice, the collection process will proceed as follows:

Notification	Trigger	Fee/Fine	Liable Party
Each Invoice (Notice #1)	Invoice generated	N/A	Registered Owner
Notice #2: Failure to Pay Invoice	Full or partial unpaid Invoice (Notice #1) 30 days from Notice #1 post-marked date.	Late Fee: \$2.50 per Notice	Registered Owner
Notice #3: Collections Notice	Full or partial unpaid Failure to Pay Invoice (Notice #2) 30 days from Notice #2 post- marked date.	Collections Fee : \$25.00 per Notice	Registered Owner

Invoices will be generated and noticed to users on a monthly basis. After an invoice has been noticed twice, and 30 days has elapsed since the second notice without full payment of the invoice, the invoice will be turned over to collections.

Question Before the Board:

Does the Board approve of TDOT's proposed administrative fee schedule and collections process?