

# Triangle Strategic Tolling Study: Update

April 25, 2018

[www.TriangleTollingStudy.com](http://www.TriangleTollingStudy.com)\*

\* For more detailed copy of this presentation  
and copy of Best Practices report





# Study Overview

- ▶ The Triangle Region is growing rapidly and to stay competitive with other regions, a study is being conducted to:

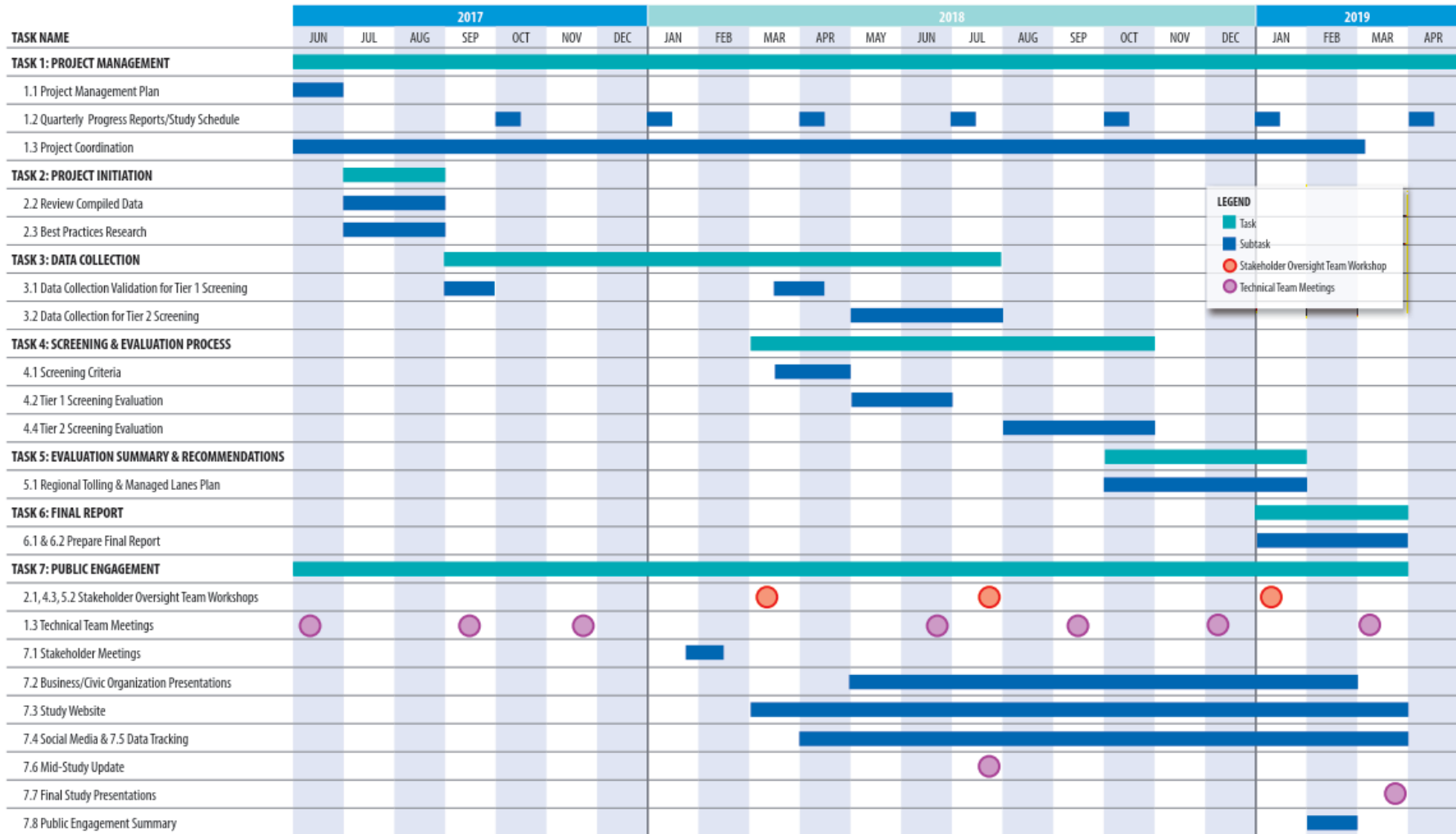
Evaluate the regional transportation network

Determine if toll lanes and/or managed lanes are applicable to the Triangle Region

Develop a toll lane and/or managed lane strategy to address current and future capacity needs with funding deficiencies

TRIANGLE STRATEGIC  
TOLLING STUDY

Triangle Toll Feasibility Study Schedule



Task

Subtask

Stakeholder Oversight Team Workshop

Technical Team Meetings

Revised February 14, 2018

STRATEGIC  
STUDY

# What About the Income Equity of Tolls?

- ▶ Using policies to address effect of tolling on low income travelers ('income equity')
  - ▶ Low income incentive programs
  - ▶ Link to transit fare discount qualifications
  - ▶ Carpool incentives
  - ▶ Enhanced / targeted investments in transit service
  - ▶ Expanded options for electronic toll participation
  - ▶ Redistribution of net revenue

*Studies have shown that low income drivers use priced facilities and benefit significantly from improved travel time and travel time reliability*

# Best Practice Highlights - Equity Considerations

## Common Equity Objections

- Paying for what has traditionally been “free”
- Paying twice (motor fuel taxes + tolls)
- Disproportionate distributions of costs/benefits

## Equity Analysis & Framework

- Income Equity
- Modal Equity
- Geographic Equity

## Potential Mitigation Strategies

- Revenue Allocation
- Toll Discounts
- Toll Transit Credits
- Carpool Loyalty Program

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## Best Practice Highlights - Operating Policy

- ▶ Electronic Toll Collection (ETC)
- ▶ Pricing Models
- ▶ Exemptions & Vehicle Eligibility
- ▶ Building Consensus
- ▶ Public Outreach
- ▶ Use of Revenue
- ▶ Benefits of Express Lane Bus Service
- ▶ Design Considerations



Copy of full report at:  
<http://triangleollingstudy.com/resources/>

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## Stakeholder Meetings Overview

- ▶ Seven meetings involving 1, 2 or 3 interviewees
- ▶ Meeting attended by 6 elected officials and representatives of RTA and GoTriangle
- ▶ Meeting attended by 9 staff representatives of MPOs, NCDOT & other relevant groups



# QUESTION: Current Community Issues Potentially Impacting the Perception of Tolling/Express Toll Lanes in the Triangle



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## QUESTION: Mitigating Identified Impacts or Problems

Enhance Transit Service/Rideshare  
**Free Use for Transit Vehicles**  
Different Transponders/Subsidies  
for Low Income Users

Clearly Communicate Information  
Find Ways to Offset Impacts  
Free/Reduced Pricing  
Bring Communities in Early  
Transparency of Impacts  
Reduce Barrier by Free HOV2  
Allow Occasional Free Use  
Rebate/Refund for Economically Disadvantaged Populations  
Use revenue to improve transit and bike/ped projects

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## QUESTION: Views on Potential Environmental Benefits/Concerns

Will environmental impacts decrease/increase?

Invest in transit

Less incentive to widen the road once managed lanes are added

Toll revenue provides opportunity to build larger than necessary – more destructive to the environment

Same concerns as non-toll roads

Natural limits of growth

Water quality control?

Improve air quality

Makes the best use of limited ROW

Does not promote transit

**Reduces stop and go traffic/congestion**

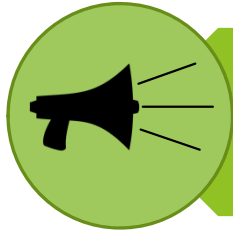
Makes people more conscious of the cost of traveling

Do tolls encourage more vehicles on roadway or not?

Increase in ride-sharing/transit

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# QUESTION: Biggest Opportunities For Improving the Perception of Tolling During the Triangle Strategic Tolling Study



## Outreach & Education

- Transparency (cost of tolls, toll lane revenue, positives of Triangle Expressway, tolls based on traffic flow)



## Marketing/Social Media (Reach as Many People as Possible)



## Open Triangle Expressway Early to Demonstrate Value



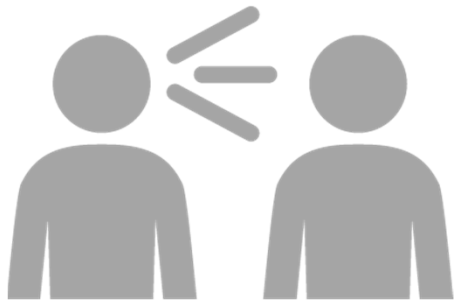
## Identify Options for Beneficial Tradeoffs (Mitigation of impacts to low income populations, environmental sustainability, supporting transit)

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## Next Steps

- ▶ Develop screening criteria (performance measures)
- ▶ Complete Tier 1 screening evaluation
  - ▶ Evaluates corridors based on toll/managed lanes projects previously programmed, congestion, high crash locations, engineering considerations, transit priority corridors, etc.
  - ▶ Identifies corridors needing congestion intervention through tolling/managed lanes strategies
- ▶ Present update and Tier 1 screening results to MPO Boards early August
- ▶ Continue public engagement (website, social media, etc.)

## More Information?



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