

## A JOINT TOLLING DECLARATION

### Preamble

Tolling is one of the most powerful and effective tools to finance, build, maintain, and improve road infrastructure for the benefit of road users and citizens.

**ASECAP**, the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures and **IBTTA**, the worldwide Association for the owners and operators of toll facilities and the businesses that serve tolling, strongly believe in the positive effects of using tolls to support road infrastructure in all the countries they represent around the world.

ASECAP and IBTTA think that a wider application of tolling policies, based on the user pays principle, will be highly beneficial for governments - especially those that face severe economic pressure and may not have enough funds either to support new infrastructure or improve existing ones – and the users, who can immediately see the benefits they receive for the fees they pay on the road infrastructure they use.

Based on these beliefs and our strong commitment to implement our Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, we are proud to present this joint Tolling Declaration and to demonstrate the reasons why tolling supports mobility and economic growth in North America and in Europe, as well as in other regions of the world.

# ADVANTAGES OF TOLLING

## 1) **TOLLING provides a reliable alternative to the lack of public funds for roads**

All over the world, the scarcity of public funds makes it extremely difficult for governments to make the necessary investments in road infrastructure. Tolling can be a powerful and efficient solution to the lack of public funds. Through the application of reliable financing frameworks, including public private partnerships (PPPs), it is possible to leverage public funding to support the construction, enlargement, and improvement of road infrastructure networks.

## 2) **TOLLING provides a sustainable source of funding**

Governments have begun to realize that collecting a tax on fuel to support road infrastructure is not sustainable. This is especially true as vehicles become more fuel efficient and many new electric and alternative fueled vehicles, which pay no fuel taxes, enter the vehicle fleet. Tolling embraces the user pays principle much more effectively than a tax on fuel: tolling looks into the future and recognizes that without a significant recognition of fuel funding realities, there will be progressive loss of the revenue stream from the gas tax.

## 3) **TOLLING gives governments flexibility in the use of public funds**

The use of tolling to support road infrastructure allows governments to use their scarce public funds (budget reduction) on other important needs such as education, public safety, care for the elderly and disadvantaged, and for other purposes.

## 4) **TOLLING provides transparency and fairness for road users**

The construction and maintenance of roads is not free; it costs money. Payment by road users is the fairest and best solution for funding road infrastructure. Through the application of toll systems, users are charged in a transparent way: they pay only and exclusively for the use of a given road infrastructure and, in principle, according to the real distance driven. In this perspective, tolling applies the principles of non-discrimination and of equal treatment. For examples, foreigners visiting and crossing one country are not subject to pay taxes in this country, but only to contribute to the maintenance or to the improvement of the road infrastructure they use. Moreover, driving on a tolled highway, users can benefit as well of high levels of road safety, which is one of the main objectives and concerns of toll road operators, pursued through the daily management of their network and the reinvestment of toll incomes to always improve the quality of the infrastructure they operate.

## **5) TOLLING helps manage demand in congested areas**

In some parts of the world, especially densely populated urban areas, it is not possible to add new road infrastructure. In these situations, dynamic pricing can be used to manage demand and promote free-flow conditions on High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. By speeding the flow of traffic and removing excess traffic from the general purpose (nontolled) lanes, pricing helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality and the environment.

## **6) TOLLING helps foster economic growth around the world**

GDP in toll areas usually grows faster than in other regions without toll roads. Indeed, tolling generates growth and jobs in the specific areas and in the concerned country. Moreover, companies and businesses frequently choose to be located near a toll road, bearing in mind the better connections and communication links, thus bringing new jobs and revenues to the surrounding community and contributing to foster economic recovery.

For ASECAP  
*President Klaus Schierhackl*



For IBTTA  
*President Robert Horr*



*Dubrovnik, Croatia, the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2013*



*Association Européenne des Concessionnaires  
d'Autoroutes et d'Ouvrages à Péage*

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures, whose members' networks today span more than 45.000 km of motorways, bridges and tunnels across 21 countries. **ASECAP's purpose is to defend and develop the system of motorways and road infrastructures in Europe applying tolls as a means to ensure the financing of their construction, maintenance and operation.**

ASECAP maintains relations with relevant international organizations, the EU institutions and the industry's main stakeholders, protecting the interests of ASECAP members regarding the deployment of a holistic cooperative transport approach.

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**TOLLING. MOVING SMARTER.**

The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) is the worldwide association for the owners and operators of toll facilities and the businesses that serve tolling. **IBTTA's mission is to advance toll financed transportation.**

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