

PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE

PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE 2017-O-110 OF THE CITY OF LAREDO AND AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF TOLL RATES THROUGH A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE BEGINNING FY2026 AND CONTINUING THROUGH JANUARY 2031; ESTABLISHING REVISED TOLL RATES FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, NON-COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS; AUTHORIZING AN INITIAL ADJUSTMENT UPON ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL PHASED ADJUSTMENTS EACH JANUARY THEREAFTER; PROVIDING FOR OPERATIONAL, MAINTENANCE, DEBT SERVICE, TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION, AND BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WORLD TRADE BRIDGE AND COLOMBIA SOLIDARITY BRIDGE, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION. INCREASES ARE DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A” AND HEREBY REPEAL ALL CONFLICTING SECTIONS IN ALL ORDINANCES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT.

WHEREAS, the current toll rate of \$1.00 per person for southbound pedestrian traffic and \$4.75 per axle for southbound commercial traffic was approved by City Council on September 5, 2017, and there has been no increase since; in addition, non-commercial rates have not increased since October 18, 2013, which are currently at \$1.75 per axle;

WHEREAS, the revenue distribution of funds will remain as follows: 50% to cover Bridge operational expenses, Debt Service, and 15% minimum fund balance requirement; any surplus will be transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund, and 50% of tolls to the General Fund;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2026 staff presented the toll rate study and proposed toll rate implementation during a workshop with the Port of Entry Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2026 an update presentation was made to the Port of Entry Advisory Committee regarding the proposed bridge toll rate increase;

WHEREAS, on May 15, 16 & 17, 2026, a public notice was published in the Laredo Morning Times and El Mañana advising of the upcoming May 18, 2026 public hearing regarding the toll rate increase for southbound pedestrian, non-commercial, and commercial traffic;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to apply such bridge tolls for southbound pedestrian, non-commercial, and commercial traffic; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing and introductory ordinance will be held on May 18, 2026.

EXHIBIT “A”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1:

That Section 1 of Ordinance 2017-O-110 of the City of Laredo shall be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

That the City Council hereby establishes the rates to be charged for southbound pedestrian traffic that cross the City of Laredo International Bridges to be as follows:

1. Pedestrian (including bicycle and rider) effective rates below:

Pedestrian Fee Schedule					
AUG. 2026	JAN. 2027	JAN. 2028	JAN. 2029	JAN. 2030	JAN. 2031
\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$2.25

(Children under 6 years of age) Free

2. All non-commercial vehicles (with or without cargo) not utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification (A.V.I.) System:

Non-Commercial New Schedule Per Axle					
AUG. 2026	JAN. 2027	JAN. 2028	JAN. 2029	JAN. 2030	JAN. 2031
\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.25

(Emergency vehicles: Fire engine, ambulance, police car, etc., answering or returning from an emergency call) Free

3. All non-commercial vehicles (with or without cargo) utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification (A.V.I.) System:

Non-Commercial New Schedule Per Axle					
AUG. 2026	JAN. 2027	JAN. 2028	JAN. 2029	JAN. 2030	JAN. 2031
\$1.90	\$2.40	\$2.90	\$3.40	\$3.90	\$4.15

(Emergency vehicles. Fire engine, ambulance, police car, etc. answering or returning from an emergency call) Free

4. All commercial vehicles effective rates:

Commercial New Schedule Per Axle					
AUG. 2026	JAN. 2027	JAN. 2028	JAN. 2029	JAN. 2030	JAN. 2031
\$5.00	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$7.00	\$7.50

5. Overweights (with permit)

- 80,001 lbs – 100,000 lbs \$50.00
- 100,001 lbs – 120,000 lbs \$75.00
- 120,001 lbs – 140,000 lbs \$100.00
- 140,001 lbs – 160,000 lbs \$125.00
- 160,001 lbs – 180,000 lbs \$150.00
- 180,001 lbs – Over \$175.00

6. Overweights (without permit)

80,001 lbs – 100,000 lbs	\$50.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00
100,001 lbs – 120,000 lbs	\$75.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00
120,001 lbs – 140,000 lbs	\$100.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00
140,001 lbs – 160,000 lbs	\$125.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00
160,001 lbs – 180,000 lbs	\$150.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00
180,001 lbs – Over	\$175.00 + \$500.00 + \$500.00

All commercial vehicles over 80,000 lbs. must obtain a permit from the Bridge Department of the City of Laredo prior to crossing any Bridge designated by the City of Laredo as a commercial International Bridge (Colombia Solidarity Bridge or World Trade Bridge). Failure to obtain this permit will result in an additional \$500.00 penalty fee at time of crossing. Failure to comply with the City of Laredo Bridge System U-Turn procedure at any International Bridge will result in an additional \$500.00 U-Turn violation fee. The entire bridge toll including the penalty fee and the violation fee must be paid prior to allowing any use of the City of Laredo International Bridges.

7. Swipe Card Administrative Fee

For Southbound Commercial Vehicles \$1.00 per Swipe Card

8. Sticker Tag Cost

For Southbound Vehicles utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification System (AVI) \$15.00 per Sticker Tag

Section 2:

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall be, and hereby are, repealed.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS THE 18TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO, **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

MARIO MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOANH T. NGUYEN, **CITY ATTORNEY**

BY: JOAQUIN A. RODRIGUEZ
FIRST ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY