

ORDINANCE 2026-O-XXX

PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE 2024-O-110 AND AUTHORIZING TO PENALIZE REPEAT U-TURNS OFFENDERS, ALLOW THEM TO CROSS AND CHARGE THE FOLLOWING: TO INCREASE THE INSUFFICIENT FUND FEE TO \$500.00 FOR THE 1st U-TURN OFFENSE PLUS THE PER AXLE CROSSING FEE, \$1,000.00 FOR THE 2nd U-TURN OFFENSE PLUS THE PER AXLE CROSSING FEE AND \$2,000.00 FOR THE 3RD U-TURN PLUS THE PER AXLE CROSSING TOLL FEE FOR SOUTHBOUND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES THAT ARRIVE AT THE TOLL BOOTH WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE AUTOMATIC VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION (A.V.I.) SYSTEM AND IF AN AVI ACCOUNT HAS MORE THAN THREE (3) INSUFFICIENT FUND U-TURNS, THE ACCOUNT WILL BE SUSPENDED AND CHARGED A RE-ACTIVATION FEE OF \$200.00. THE COMPANY MUST LEAVE A CREDIT CARD ON FILE AND SCHEDULE AUTOMATIC REPLENISHMENT OF FUNDS AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" AND HEREBY REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING SECTIONS IN ALL ORDINANCES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT.

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2024, City Council approved the final reading amending Section 1 of Ordinance 2024-O-110 of the City of Laredo and authorized to increase the insufficient fund fee to \$100.00 plus the \$4.75 per axle fee for southbound commercial vehicles that arrive at the toll booth with insufficient funds in the Automatic Vehicle Identification (A.V.I.) System as further described in Exhibit "A" and hereby repealing all conflicting sections in all ordinances currently in effect;

WHEREAS, the need to increase the insufficient fund fee for southbound commercial vehicles utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification System (A.V.I.) is to continue to avoid a disruption to the flow of traffic; and

WHEREAS, currently when a vehicle arrives at the toll booth and the A.V.I. account associated with that vehicle does not have enough funds to cover the toll fee, the vehicle is not allowed to continue into Mexico and is advised to turn around and exit the toll facilities;

WHEREAS, the average insufficient fund U-Turns per month at Colombia Solidarity Bridge is 15 and at the World Trade Bridge is 129 based on the last 12 months;

WHEREAS, the Port of Entry Advisory Committee has been made aware of this process and unanimously agreed to increase the insufficient fund fee to continue to decrease the U-Turn occurrences;

WHEREAS, the estimated monthly financial impact if the average U-Turns per month continue will be \$72,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to apply such insufficient fund fee for southbound commercial vehicles that arrive at the toll booth with insufficient funds in the A.V.I. account.

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

Section 1: That section 1 of ordinance 2024-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 traffic that crosses into Mexico at the City of Laredo International Bridges to be as follows:

1. Pedestrians one dollar (1.00)
 (Children under 6 years of age)..... Free
 (Bicycle and rider)..... one dollar (1.00)

2. All non-commercial vehicles (with or without Cargo) not utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification (A.V.I.) System \$1.75 @ Axle
 (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 \$1.65 @ Axle
 (Emergency vehicles. Fire engine, ambulance, police car, etc. Answering or returning from an emergency call) Free

4. Commercial Vehicles
 All commercial vehicles\$4.75 @ Axle

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 |

U-Turn
Penalty Violation

- | 6. Overweights (Without permit) | <u>Fee</u> | <u>Fee</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 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 its International Bridges 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@ Swipe Card

8. Sticker Tag Cost

For Southbound Vehicles utilizing the Automatic Vehicle Identification System (A.V.I.)\$15.00 @ Sticker Tag

~~9. Insufficient Fund Fee~~

~~For Southbound Commercial Vehicles..... \$100.00 + \$4.75 per axle~~

9. Insufficient Fund Fee

For Southbound Commercial Vehicles.....\$500.00 for the 1st Offense
+ the per axle crossing fee
\$1,000.00 for the 2nd Offense
+ the per axle crossing fee
\$2,000.00 for the 3rd Offense
+ the per axle fee crossing fee

*Suspend account and charge a re-activation fee of \$200.00

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
_____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOANH T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY