

**NC Department of Transportation Fees for Consultation with
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations**

Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources/Transportation

January 20, 2004

Currituck-Corolla Ferry Toll

House Bill 397, Section 29.20 (SL 2003-284) ratified June 30, 2003, directed the NC Department of Transportation to establish ferry service from the Currituck terminal of the Currituck-Knotts Island ferry to Corolla on or before May 1, 2004. This amended rule, effective March 1, 2004, establishes a toll of \$2.00 for this new service and specifies that the toll shall not apply to Currituck County school children and staff.

Tourist-Oriented Directional Sign Program (TODS) Fee

Senate Bill 206 in the 2001 legislative session created the TODS program. The TODS, or Tourist Oriented Directional Signs, are guide signs that display the business identification of and directional information for tourist-oriented businesses and facilities. On July 10, 2003, the Board of Transportation approved temporary suspension of the TODS program to clarify the qualifications criteria. While suspended, coordination with BOT members and staff also resulted in a reevaluation of the fee structure. Subsequently, administrative code NCAE19A NCAC 02E.1101 through 02E.1108 was amended to clarify the qualifications criteria and simplify the fee structure to be consistent with the Logo Program.

Under the previously approved administrative code, the fees were as follows:

- (a) Non-refundable application fee of \$175 per contract;
- (b) Initial construction fee of \$325 per each sign;
- (c) Annual maintenance fee of \$300 for each contract, renewed annually each July 1;
- (d) Service Charge Fee of \$160 per each TODS panel, each additional masking and unmasking, when an attraction requires replacement of a sign, or when the Department performs replacement due to damages to the TODS panel caused by acts of vandalism, accidents, or natural causes including natural deterioration.

We are asking for approval of the permanent rules, which include the simplification of the fee structure to require an annual fee of \$200 per sign. No other fees apply.

Logo Sign Program Fee

In the 2003 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 38 directed the Department of Transportation to amend the Logo Sign Program to authorize the Attraction Logo Signing and to adopt temporary rules concerning Logo Signs. Subsequently, administrative code NCAE 19A NCAC 02E.0216 thru 02E.0222 was amended under temporary rules to add flexibility to the program to maximize participation, simplify the fees, and include "Attractions" as an additional service to qualifying businesses.

Under the previously approved administrative code, the fees were as follows: Option A was a one (1) year contract fee of \$225 per each mainline and ramp sign; Option B was a ten (10) year fee of \$2,250 per each mainline and ramp sign; and Option C was a lifetime contract fee that included the design and complete

installation cost for all required mainline, ramp, trailblazer and supplemental service panels. All options included a maintenance fee of \$75 per each mainline, ramp and trailblazer business panel. All options included a one-time Trailblazer fee of \$250 per each trailblazer panel. A service charge fee of sixty (\$60) per each business panel was charged when a business requested replacement of their business panel or the sign was damaged and needed replacement. For businesses that participated with Option A or B, the total fee per year for mainline and ramp sign installations was \$300 per sign.

Under the current temporary rules, the fees for the Logo Sign Program are \$300 per each mainline, ramp and trailblazer panel. No other fees apply.

We are asking for approval of the permanent rules, which include the simplification of the fee structure to require an annual fee of \$300 per each mainline, ramp, and trailblazer business panel. No other fees apply.

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