



# West Virginia Parkways Authority Initiatives

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# History of the Turnpike

- **July 1988 – I-64 joins Turnpike at Beckley**
- **June 1989 – WV Parkways Economic Development and Tourism Authority (WVPEDTA) created by Legislature (abolished old Turnpike Commission)**



# History of the Turnpike

- **November 1989 - \$143 million in revenue bonds issued to pay back State matching funds of \$83 million, pay bondholders \$45 million and build needed road improvements**
  - **DOH took the \$83 million to create a “Special Highway Fund for Southern WV”**
  - **The 1989 bonds mature in 2019 and the annual debt service is \$10.8 million**
  - **Side tolls removed (lost revenues \$2.5 million)**



# History of the Turnpike

- **April 1990 – Commuter pass at North Beckley**
- **January 1994 –Commuter (“PAC”) System**
- **May 1996 – Opened Tamarack –  
*“The Best of West Virginia”***
- **January 2000 – New electronic  
Toll Collection System – E-ZPass®**
- **2001 – Renovations to Turnpike travel plazas**



# History of the Turnpike

- **April 2007 – Board adopted resolution to refocus the core mission of the Parkways to maintenance and upkeep of the Turnpike**
- **September 2007 – WV tax deduction for E-ZPass**
- **August 2009 – First toll increase in 28 years**
- **July 2010 – Senate Bill #427 renames and reorganizes the Parkways Authority**

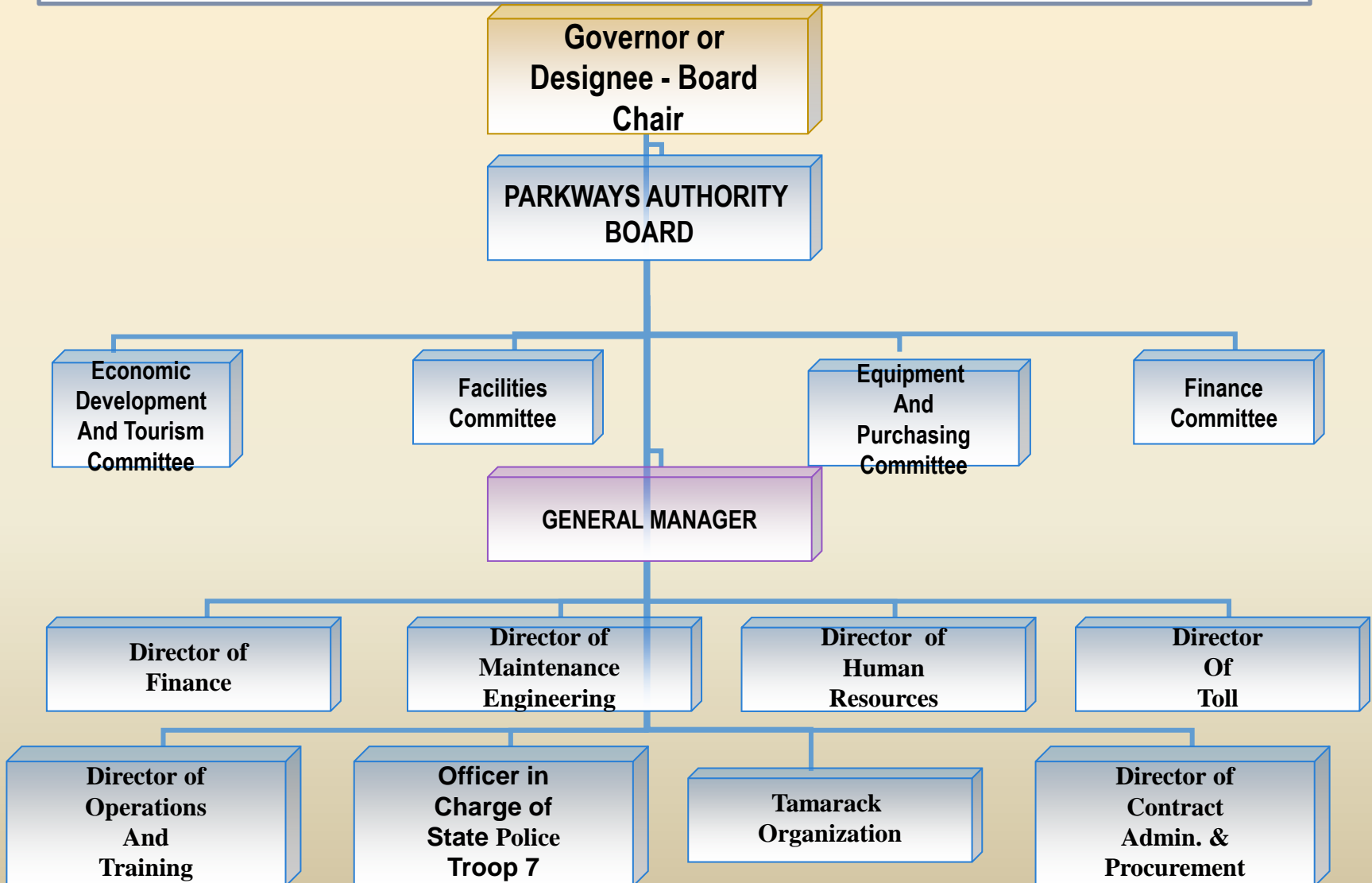


# Trust Indentures Covenants and Requirements

- Turnpike bonds are the direct and general obligations of the Authority payable solely from toll revenues (*not a debt of the State of WV*)
  - Currently \$70 million outstanding
- Tolls shall be fixed to provide for payment of all expenses, debt service and required reserves
- The Authority shall at all times operate the Turnpike in a sound and economical manner and shall maintain, preserve and keep the same in good repair, working order and condition



# Organization Chart





# Parkways Authority Board

- **PURPOSE**

- Sets Policy for Parkways Authority
- Develops Strategy
- Steers the Direction of the Authority

- **COMPOSITION**

- Governor or designee serves as Chair – Plus 8 members including Secretary of Transportation and 6 public members (2 from each Congressional District) and 1 At Large member appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate — Members appointed for five (5) year terms





# Personnel Strength

## FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYEES:

• Toll	167
• Maintenance	143
• Communications	10
• Tourist Information Centers	23
• Administration/Customer Service	<u>24</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>367</b>



# Turnpike Overview



# Turnpike Overview

- **State Police Troop 7 Parkways Division (31 Troopers authorized – 2 PSC Officers ) – Current Troopers = 27**
- **24/7 radio operations, State Police dispatch and communications system**
- **Courtesy Patrol/Motorist Assist Program**
- **Fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled (2010) – 0.6**



# Turnpike Overview

- **FY/12 Budgeted Highway Operations (in millions)**
  - **Operating Revenues - \$ 80.5**
  - **Operating Expenses - \$ 37.4**
  - **Debt Service and Equipment Finance Leasing - \$10.9**
  - **Renewal and Replacement - \$10.1**
  - **Available Funds for Highway, Bridge and Facilities Capital Projects - \$22.1**
- **The West Virginia Parkways Authority receives no funding from the State or the Federal government for maintenance, operation or capital repairs**
- **Tolls (“user fees”) free up tax dollars to be used by the WVDOH for all of the other highways and bridges in WV**



# Who Uses the WV Turnpike?

- **76% of toll revenues come from out-of-state passenger and commercial vehicles\***
- **Commercial traffic accounts for 50% of toll revenues**
- **34.5 million transactions on the Turnpike in FY/2011**
- **Average daily transactions approximately 94,000 per day**
  - **79% are privately owned vehicles and**
  - **21% are commercial vehicles**
- **16% of toll revenues come from WV passenger cars and 8% from WV commercial vehicles\***

\* Per November 2005 Wilbur Smith Traffic Study



# E-ZPass®

- **E-ZPass Electronic Toll Collection System and Parkways Authority Commuter Discount Programs**
  - **E-ZPass is the electronic means by which holders of a transponder can pass through the toll lanes without stopping**
  - **Four (4) discount plans available to: WV E-ZPass passenger vehicles, frequent user (flat fee for unlimited use); WV E-ZPass passenger vehicles, infrequent user (35% savings); WV E-ZPass commercial vehicles (20-35% savings); Non WV E-ZPass commercial vehicles (13% savings)**
  - **WV tax deductions**



# Advanced Travel Information System

- **WVDOT used one-time Federal stimulus funds on the Turnpike for:**
  - **19 dynamic message signs**
  - **22 closed circuit TV cameras**
  - **Turnpike radio system integrated with the WVDOH's Traffic Management System and the 911 centers that service the Turnpike**



# Incident Management Plan

- **WVDOH hired contractor to prepare an Incident Management Plan for the Turnpike**
  - **Procedures to maintain traffic movement in the event the Turnpike is rendered impassible by an accident, weather, or any other event**
  - **Establishes emergency detours to bypass portions of the West Virginia Turnpike.**
- **Draft plan currently under review**





# Enhanced Weather Preparedness

- **In response to a severe winter storm in December 2009, the following enhancements were made to the Turnpike's snow removal and ice control operations:**
  - **4 emergency gates installed on the north end**
  - **When a snow storm of 6" or more or a severe ice storm is expected ....**
    - **extra crews and equipment are prepositioned**
    - **command center established**
    - **extra supplies and equipment purchased to assist motorists**
    - **heavy equipment tandem trucks assist with snow plowing**
    - **motor grader used for snow removal**
    - **participate in pre-storm conference with National Weather Service, WVDOH and DHSEM**



# Tamarack

## Property Development

- A land planning and management firm has been hired to advise the Authority on the *highest and best use of approximately 82 acres surrounding Tamarack*
- The goal is to outline a mix of land uses that serves to complement Tamarack's and West Virginia's image and also generate income to bring Tamarack to a revenue neutral or revenue positive operating condition.
  - Travel Plaza concession revenues are used to supplement Tamarack's revenue stream



# New Initiatives

- **In August 2009, the first toll increase in 28 years was approved – these funds allowed the Authority to begin new initiatives**
  - **Upgrade electronic toll collection system**
    - **Enhanced account management**
    - **On-line statements and renewals**
    - **New in-lane equipment**
    - **Improved violation enforcement system**
    - **Scheduled completion December 2011**
  - **Major road and bridge rehabilitation projects**
    - **From 2009 to 2019, \$335 million will be spent on essential deferred maintenance and capital projects, including \$242 million for paving needs**



# Maintenance Management System (MMS)

- **Enables the Maintenance Department to perform more efficiently and in a cost effective manner**
- **Assists the Authority in meeting its good repair covenant with the bondholders for the WV Turnpike**
- **Helps to define standard work practices for efficient crew sizes, to measure asset conditions and to set performance measures and targets**
- **Has resulted in staff reductions and reorganization within the Maintenance Department**
- **By having performance measures established as targets and then measuring against those, staff can ascertain if the Department is meeting performance objectives and, if not, striving to achieve systematic and objective measures**



## Bonds Mature in 2019

- Under existing statutory provisions, tolls on the WV Turnpike can be removed after the final pay-off of the bonds, currently scheduled for 2019, if the Turnpike is determined to be in *“good condition and repair”* by the WV Secretary of Transportation, and transferred to the WV Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, and be maintained by the DOH free of tolls.