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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CASHLESS TOLL COLLECTION BEGINS
OCT. 16 AT HATEM BRIDGE AND OCT. 30 AT KEY BRIDGE**
Get Your E-ZPass® at Community Events in October

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) has set the dates to begin cashless toll collection at the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge (US 40) in Harford and Cecil counties and at the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) in Baltimore. Prior to the morning rush hour on Wednesday, October 16, all-electronic toll collection will begin at the Hatem Bridge via *E-ZPass*® and Video Tolling. All-electronic toll collection at the Key Bridge will begin Wednesday, October 30.

As of those dates, cash will no longer be accepted as payment. New overhead tolling structures, or gantries, have been installed at the bridges to collect tolls electronically. The existing toll plazas will still be up at the Hatem and Key bridges until 2021. Drivers will continue through the plazas without stopping and must obey all roadway signs and speed limits, as these plazas will remain active work zones.

In spring 2021, work at the Hatem and Key bridges will be completed, including demolition of the toll plazas. At that time, motorists will be able to travel at highway speeds.

Officials announced the move to all-electronic tolling at the Hatem and Key bridges this past spring. Cashless tolling eases congestion, and it is anticipated that drivers using the Hatem and Key bridges will save \$1 million in fuel and 44,000 hours each year by not stopping at toll booths. Less idling time also results in better fuel efficiency and reduced vehicle emissions. The change also increases driver safety and results in a safer work environment for employees.

E-ZPass® Maryland customers receive significant discounts at most Maryland toll facilities. At the Hatem Bridge – where tolls are collected in one direction only – the two-axle *E-ZPass*® toll rate is \$6, and the two-axle Video Toll rate is \$12. The *E-ZPass*® Hatem Bridge Discount Plans will remain available with cashless tolling. At the Key Bridge, the two-axle *E-ZPass*® toll rate is \$3 and the two-axle Video Toll rate is \$6. *E-ZPass*® commuter plans are available. Due to higher processing costs, the Video Toll rate is 50 percent above the cash/base rate with a maximum of \$15 above the base rates.

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Standard *E-ZPass*[®] transponders are free and there is no monthly fee for customers with Maryland addresses. Interested motorists can sign up for *E-ZPass*[®] Maryland at ezpassmd.com, by visiting the *E-ZPass*[®] Maryland Customer Service Center at the Hatem Bridge and Key Bridge, or at any other Customer Service Centers located adjacent to MDTA facilities. Registration is also available at many Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) locations or retail partners. A full list of locations is available at ezpassmd.com.

The MDTA’s *E-ZPass*[®] Maryland Outreach Team will be at scheduled events to provide free *E-ZPass*[®] transponders and to sign up new customers at the following locations.

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, October 1	Perryville Library	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, October 4	North Point Library	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 9	Havre de Grace Library	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
	Brooklyn Park Library	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 15	Glen Burnie Library	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 17	Rosedale Library	11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Monday, October 21	Essex Library	4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 23	Linthicum Library	4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

While the schedule has not yet been finalized, additional MDTA facilities will be all-electronic in the future. The MDTA is self-sufficient and receives no gas tax, motor vehicle fees or other revenue from the Transportation Trust Fund. MDTA facilities are fully financed, operated, maintained, improved and protected through toll revenues paid by customers using those facilities.