



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

March 25, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #3

Prohibit the operation of certain vehicles on
Mobility Authority toll facilities pursuant to
the Habitual Violator Program

Strategic Plan Relevance:	Regional Mobility
Department:	Operations
Contact:	Tracie Brown, Director of Operations
Associated Costs:	Not applicable
Funding Source:	Not applicable
Action Requested:	Consider and act on draft resolution
Summary:	

Background: The Mobility Authority's habitual violator process prescribes two notices before habitual violator remedies go into effect. A pre-determination letter is sent 60 days before any remedies are enforced advising the customer again of their outstanding balance and providing an opportunity for resolution. Assuming no resolution, a *Notice of Determination* is mailed notifying the customer they've been determined to be a habitual violator and advising of the consequences. The customer is also informed of their right to appeal the decision and the process by which to do so.

If the customer does not contact the Authority to appeal the habitual violator determination or resolve their outstanding balance, a block is placed on the related vehicle's registration preventing renewal. The block remains in effect until all tolls and fees have been paid, a payment plan has been arranged with the Mobility Authority or the customer is determined to no longer be a habitual violator.

Current Action: State law states that persons deemed to be habitual violators may also be prohibited from use of the Mobility Authority's toll facilities by order of the Board of Directors. Habitual violator customers operating a vehicle in violation of a ban are subject to a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500. A second or subsequent occurrence may result in impoundment of the vehicle. Similar to registration blocks, vehicle bans remain in effect until all outstanding amounts owed to the Authority have been resolved or the customer is no longer deemed a habitual violator.

Action Requested/Staff Recommendation: Staff affirms that all required steps have been followed and proper notice previously provided to customers determined to be habitual violators. To date, these customers have not appealed this determination or resolved their outstanding balances.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the order prohibiting certain vehicles from use of the Authority's toll facilities. Following the Board's approval of this order, a Notice of Prohibition will be mailed by first class mail advising of the ban, consequences if the ban is violated and how the customer may resolve their outstanding balance.

Financing: Not applicable

Backup Provided: Draft Resolution
Habitual Violator Vehicle Ban FAQs

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0XX

**PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES
ON MOBILITY AUTHORITY TOLL FACILITIES PURSUANT TO
THE HABITUAL VIOLATOR PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Transportation Code, Chapter 372, Subchapter C, authorizes toll project entities, including the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority), to exercise various remedies against certain motorists with unpaid toll violations; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.106 provides that a “habitual violator” is a registered owner of a vehicle who a toll project entity determines:

- (1) was issued at least two written notices of nonpayment that contained:
 - (A) in the aggregate, 100 or more events of nonpayment within a period of one year, not including events of nonpayment for which: (i) the registered owner has provided to the toll project entity information establishing that the vehicle was subject to a lease at the time of nonpayment, as provided by applicable toll project entity law; or (ii) a defense of theft at the time of the nonpayment has been established as provided by applicable toll project entity law; and
 - (B) a warning that the failure to pay the amounts specified in the notices may result in the toll project entity’s exercise of habitual violator remedies; and
- (2) has not paid in full the total amount due for tolls and administrative fees under those notices; and

WHEREAS, the Mobility Authority previously determined that the individuals listed in Exhibit A are habitual violators, and these determinations are now considered final in accordance with Transportation Code, Chapter 372, Subchapter C; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.109 provides that a final determination that a person is a habitual violator remains in effect until (1) the total amount due for the person’s tolls and administrative fees is paid; or (2) the toll project entity, in its sole discretion, determines that the amount has been otherwise addressed; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Code §372.110 provides that a toll project entity, by order of its governing body, may prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle on a toll project of the entity if:
(1) the registered owner of the vehicle has been finally determined to be a habitual violator; and

(2) the toll project entity has provided notice of the prohibition order to the registered owner; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director recommends that the Board prohibit the operation of the motor vehicles listed in Exhibit A on the Mobility Authority's toll roads, including (1) 183A Toll; (2) 290 Toll; (3) 71 Toll; (4) MoPac Express Lanes; (5) 45 SW Toll; and (6) 183S Toll.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the motor vehicles listed in Exhibit A are prohibited from operation on the Mobility Authority's toll roads, effective March 25, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mobility Authority shall provide notice of this resolution to the individuals listed in Exhibit A, as required by Transportation Code §372.110; and

BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the prohibition shall remain in effect for the motor vehicles listed in Exhibit A until the respective habitual violator determinations are terminated, as provided by Transportation Code §372.110.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 25th day of March 2020.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Geoffrey Petrov, General Counsel

Approved:

Robert W. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors

Exhibit A

LIST OF PROHIBITED VEHICLES

(To be provided at the Board Meeting)



Habitual Violator Process

01



Repeatedly used Mobility Authority toll roads without paying. Texas law deems someone a Habitual Violator when they have 100 or more unpaid toll charges within a 12-month period and two non-payment notices.

02



Ignored the Pre-determination Letter. This alerts someone that they meet Habitual Violator requirements and have 30 days to contact the Mobility Authority to resolve their outstanding charges before entering Habitual Violator status. They are also subject to additional enforcement remedies.

03



Ignored the Determination letter. This alerts someone they have been determined to be a Habitual Violator and informs them that they have 30 days to request an appeal. Habitual Violator Determination is FINAL once this time expires if no action is taken.

04



Deemed Habitual Violator. The Habitual Violator's vehicle registration renewal is blocked and they are banned from all Mobility Authority roadways. A registration block notice and prohibition notice is sent once those remedies are implemented. Prohibited vehicle information will also be public on MobilityAuthority.com.

Who is a Habitual Violator?

A Habitual Violator is defined in Section 372.106(a) of the Texas Transportation Code as (A) one who was issued at least two written notices of nonpayment that contained in aggregate 100 or more events of nonpayment within a period of one year and, (B) was issued a warning that failure to pay the amounts specified in the notices may result in the toll project entity's exercise of Habitual Violator remedies.

What enforcement remedies is the Mobility Authority implementing for Habitual Violators?

To encourage equitable payment by all customers, legislation allows for enforcement remedies up to and including vehicle registration renewal blocks, prohibiting Habitual Violator's vehicles on Mobility Authority roadways, on-road enforcement of the vehicle ban, as well as posting names to the agency website of those Habitual Violators with banned vehicles. The Mobility Authority will be implementing these remedies beginning November 2019.

How will I know I'm a Habitual Violator subject to enforcement remedies?

Habitual Violators are provided due process protections prior to any enforcement action.

- A registered vehicle owner who the Mobility Authority determines meets the Habitual Violator status is sent a letter advising them that Habitual Violator remedies may be implemented if the customer's outstanding balance is not resolved. This letter is not required by law but is sent as a courtesy to reflect the Mobility Authority's commitment to the customer.
- A registered vehicle owner who the Mobility Authority determines to be a Habitual Violator receives written notice of that determination and an opportunity for a justice of the peace hearing to challenge their Habitual Violator status.
- Habitual Violator Determination is FINAL if no action is taken, prompt in the Mobility Authority to send a Vehicle Registration Block Notice and/or a Vehicle Ban Notice. These notices urge the Habitual Violator yet again to resolve their toll debt with the Mobility Authority.
- Sufficient time is provided to respond to all notifications.



How can I resolve my Habitual Violator status and settle my toll bill balance?

You can pay outstanding tolls and administrative fees with cash, money order or credit card (a payment plan may be available) by: calling the Mobility Authority Customer Service Center at 512-410-0562, online at www.paymobilitybill.com, or in person at our walk-up center.

Why is the Mobility Authority pursuing enforcement remedies?

The vehicle registration block and other toll enforcement actions are intended to encourage tollway drivers to pay for services rendered to ensure fairness to the overwhelming majority of drivers who pay for the service, maintenance and safety of the toll roads.

How will a person be notified that he or she is subject to enforcement remedies?

A notification letter announcing that a person has met the criteria of Habitual Violator is sent to the address in the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TTC 372.106) database, allowing 30 days to contact to dispute their determination as a Habitual Violator or address the account balance before remedies are applied. If the Habitual Violator does not make arrangements with the Mobility Authority during this period, they will be subject to all enforcement remedies. Additionally, notification of a registration renewal block is mailed.

Can someone dispute a toll bill?

Yes. You may contact the Mobility Authority to review all outstanding tolls and fees, correct any errors and arrange for payment to clear your status as a Habitual Violator and the block on your registration. Habitual Violators are also given an opportunity to request an administrative hearing with a justice of the peace.

How will I know or be notified that I am subject to a vehicle ban?

Habitual violators subject to vehicle ban will receive notification that they have been banned, including when the ban will take effect and instructions for how to remove their status as a Habitual Violator.

Can I dispute my toll bill that subjects me to the vehicle ban?

Yes. You may contact the Mobility Authority to review all outstanding tolls and administrative fees, correct any errors and arrange for payment to clear your status as a Habitual Violator and remove the vehicle ban.

What happens if I am banned, but get caught driving on a Mobility Authority toll road?

A person commits an offense when operating a vehicle in violation of the ban and is subject to a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500. A second or subsequent occurrence of driving on the tollway in violation of a ban may result in impoundment of the vehicle.

How will the Mobility Authority know if I'm still driving (after being banned)?

Mobility Authority roads are equipped with technology that recognizes vehicle and license plates on our prohibited list. Individuals operating a prohibited vehicle on Mobility Authority roads will be reported to nearby law enforcement patrolling Mobility Authority roads.