

# **E-Z Pass in Virginia**

**June 2005**

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# E-Z Pass



**Trade name of the Electronic Toll Collection system (ETC) operated primarily in the Northeastern states**

# E-Z Pass Origins

## 7 Original Agencies

- NYSTA
- MTA
- PANYNJ
- NJ Turnpike
- NJ Highway
- So Jersey
- PA Turnpike

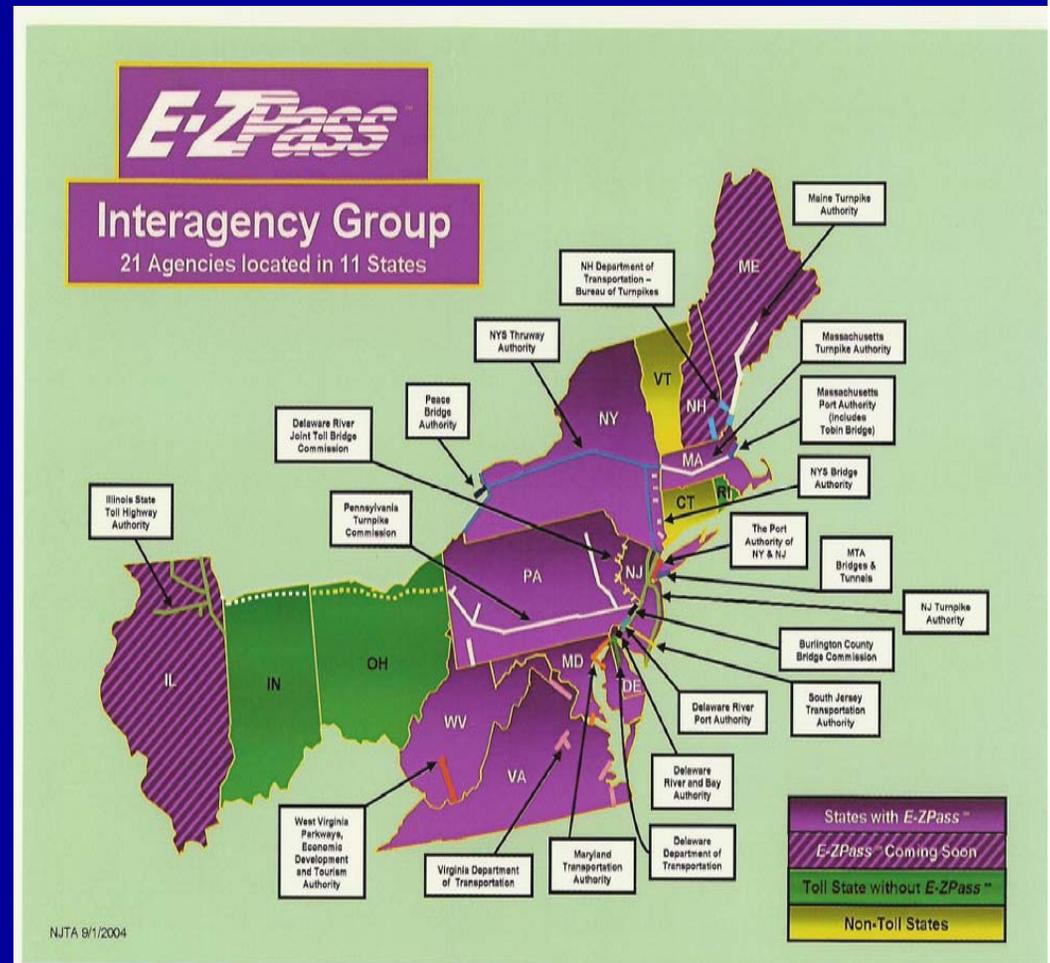
*“...technology had to be implemented at a regional level. To do so, however, each agency had to cooperate with one another and even give up some of its autonomy.”*

— Chairman of TRANSCOM  
Michael Ascher

# E-Z Pass Today

## Largest interoperable toll collection system in the World

- 22 participating agencies in 11 states
- over 7.5 million account holders
- nearly 11 million transponders
- nearly 750 million annual transactions
- over \$1 billion dollars annually for the agencies



# E-Z Pass Today

- **Provides uniformity in IAG Member tolling operations through:**
  - Mark IV transponder technology
  - Application of ETC policies and operational activities
  - Similar handling of user privacy, data sharing, confidentiality
  - Unanimous consent for adjustments to technology, new uses for technology or E-Z Pass copyright

# Virginia's Road to E-Z Pass

- August 2003 – Governor Mark Warner announces “merger” and intent to implement reciprocity by Fall 2004
- November – 2003 Virginia officially accepted as Full Member in IAG
- January 2004 - VDOT began effort to meet Fall 2004 deadline with VITA approval
- October 2004 began accepting transactions

# Virginia's E-Z Pass Experience

Number of E-Z Pass transactions on toll roads in Virginia continues to increase

Month	Total ETC Transactions	E-Z Pass Transactions	Percent
October 2004	10,703,386	118,448	1.11%
November 2004	10,166,947	372,178	3.66%
December 2004	10,337,118	428,761	4.15%
January 2005	10,163,625	425,720	4.19%
February 2005	9,796,839	428,212	4.37%
March 2005	11,290,630	519,643	4.60%
April 2005	11,046,847	537,943	4.87%
May 2005	11,103,025	573,819	5.17%

# E-Z Pass Benefits

- Operation of a “seamless” system
- Reduction of out of state cars in manual toll collection queues
- Increased ETC patron satisfaction – 49% increase in applications in early months
- Consistent operational rules and policies for PPTA toll opportunities
- Long-term decrease in operating costs due to IAG “buying power”
- Stronger voice in shaping national toll policy

# E-Z Pass Benefits

- Ability to leverage knowledge and skills of other IAG Members
  - “E-Z Pass on the Go” – retail sales of pre-paid tags
- Shared cost for exploring new technology, operational concepts and policy issues
  - Customer service centers
  - 5.9 technology
  - E-Z Pass in parking garages
  - “Sale” of public-owned toll facilities

# E-Z Pass Challenges

- **Achieve equity among all Member Agencies**
  - “Home” Agency bears most of the operating costs
  - Historic imbalance because agencies that joined early had customers opening accounts in areas that are now served by agencies that joined later
- **Achieving consensus as the number of member agencies continues to increase**

# E-Z Pass Challenges

- **Periodically upgrade software to achieve better reciprocity and allow more agencies to join**
  - Patents on components of existing technology are nearing conclusion
  - Next Generation Task Force formed to explore alternatives – Virginia is part of Task Force
  - Cost and timing of such upgrades are key considerations

# E-Z Pass Challenges

- **Differences in the ownership of toll facilities**
  - DOT's
  - Political subdivisions
  - Private entities

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