

Roadside Toll Collection & Back Office System

Request for Information - September 16, 2013

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION



***Southern
Connector***

Connector 2000 Association, Inc
3050 Southern Connector
Piedmont, SC 29673
Attn: Don Piccoli

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I. Administration

1. Notice of Request for Information

The Connector 2000 Association, Inc., operator of the Southern Connector toll road (CONNECTOR) in Greenville County, South Carolina is seeking information on technology that may assist in the upgrade/replacement of the CONNECTOR's toll collection system including but not limited to Roadside, Customer Service Center, Violation Processing System, and Auditing. This Request for Information (RFI) solicitation will concentrate on roadside and back office technology as well as vendor experience and innovativeness. The CONNECTOR will review and evaluate responses. Those responses deemed appealing to the CONNECTOR will be provided a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and/or Request for Proposal (RFP). **In order to qualify for a RFP, a response to this RFI must be received.**

This RFI does not constitute a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), a Request for Proposals (RFP), or any other solicitation document. This RFI does not commit the Connector to contract for any supply or service whatsoever, nor will any response to this RFI be considered in the evaluation of any response to a solicitation document.

The CONNECTOR is a private agency and therefore requires no government review or approval for any phase of this project.

2. RFI Contact Person

The contact person for this RFI is
Don Piccoli, Operations Manager
Email: donp@southernconnector.com
Phone: 864-527-2177 (office)

3. RFI Posting

This RFI is available electronically as of the date of issuance on the following websites:

www.southernconnector.com
www.ibtta.org
www.tollroadsnews.com

4. Questions/Tours/Interviews

All RESPONDERS to this RFI will be permitted to submit questions in writing through email to Don Piccoli. Questions and responses will be provided by the CONNECTOR and will be posted on the CONNECTOR's website.

Potential RESPONDERS are also invited to tour the facility based on the schedule provided.

Upon review of responses the CONNECTOR may elect to conduct interviews. **Participation in the RFI is required to be considered for any future RFQ or RFP related to this RFI.** Responses to the RFI shall be in the format described in **Section V** of this document.

At its option, the CONNECTOR may elect to follow-up directly with respondents with more detailed questions or to clarify submissions. The CONNECTOR may also elect to conduct a

meeting with respondents at a later date to discuss submissions and/or any potential procurement process.

5. Cost Incurred Responsibility

The CONNECTOR will not pay for any costs incurred by RESPONDERS in response to this RFI.

6. Response to RFI Submittal Instructions

Responses shall be submitted via FedEx, UPS or in person by 2PM EST on November 4, 2013 to:

Don Piccoli, Operations Manager
 Connector 2000 Association
 West Toll Plaza*
 3050 Southern Connector*
 Piedmont, SC 29673*

*US Post Office does not deliver to this address

The RFI responses shall be submitted one sided, letter-size (8½ x 11 inch) paper and shall be tab-indexed corresponding to the sections required. Eight hard copies and three CD/drives shall be submitted.

7. Schedule

The CONNECTOR reserves the right to modify the schedule at any time and for any reason.

TABLE 1 SCHEDULE	
RFI Issuance Date	September 16, 2013
Facility Tour (Optional)	October 1, 2013
Deadline for Questions	2 PM EST on October 8, 2013
Responses to Questions Posted	October 18, 2013
RFI Response Deadline	2 PM EST on November 4, 2013
Interviews	week of December 2-6, 2013

8. Abbreviations

Abbreviations used throughout this document are defined in **Table 2** below.

TABLE 2 ABBREVIATIONS			
ACM	Automatic Coin Machine	OCR	Optical Character Recognition
AET	All Electronic Tolling	ORT	Open Road Tolling
BOS	Back Office System	PalPass	Palmetto Pass
CSC	Customer Service Center	RFI	Request for Information
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles	RFP	Request for Proposals
ETC	Electronic Toll Collection	RFQ	Request for Qualifications
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	SCDOT	South Carolina Department of Transportation
IVR	Interactive Voice Response	VCS	Video Capture System
		VPS	Violation Processing System

II. Southern Connector Background Information

The CONNECTOR was built to relieve congestion on highways 85 and 385, and to open up a significant portion of southern Greenville County to economic development.

The CONNECTOR's mission is to facilitate safe, efficient, and convenient commuter, shipping and leisure traveler access to, through and around Greater Greenville and Upstate South Carolina by operating, maintaining and servicing the CONNECTOR toll road.

1. Roadway

The CONNECTOR is a 16 mile toll road in Greenville County, SC. The road traverses between I-185 and ends at the I-385 and SC 276 interchange (west to east). It extends southeast crossing SC 20; turns easterly to cross US 25 and continues east and crosses Fork Shoals Road and the Reedy River. Entrance and exit points include I-85, Rt. 153, SC 20, US 25, Fork Shoals Road, Neely Ferry Road, Standing Springs Road and I-385. The speed limit on the CONNECTOR is 70 miles per hour.

At the mainline toll plazas, vehicles using the Palmetto Pass (PalPass) ETC only lane must observe a 45 MPH speed limit. All vehicles using the cash and automatic coin machine (ACM) lanes must stop to make a payment. PalPass members using the remote ramp lanes should observe the 5 MPH speed limit. The CONNECTOR is a federal interstate highway - designed and built to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards. **Figure 1** depicts the location of the CONNECTOR.

2. Financing

The road was privately financed, but it is not privately owned. The tolls collected on the Connector go to satisfy the bonds, which financed the road. The tolls also pay South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for all road maintenance, including snow removal and grass cutting. SCDOT, Greenville County, and the City of Greenville are not liable for any of the CONNECTOR debt.

Figure 1-Southern Connector Location



3. Toll Collection

Toll Rates

Tolls are collected at two mainline toll plazas which accept cash, credit cards, ACM, and PalPass payments based on number of vehicle axles. Tolls are collected on the ramps via ACM and PalPass with a flat toll rate not based on axles. Current toll rates are presented in **Table 3**. The next scheduled toll increase is January 2016.

TABLE 3 TOLL RATE SCHEDULE-2013		
Mainline Toll Plazas		
Number of Axles	Cash	PalPass
2 axles	\$1.50	\$1.35
3 axles	\$3.00	\$2.55
4 axles	\$4.00	\$3.40
5 axles	\$5.00	\$4.25
6+ axles	\$6.00	\$5.10
Ramps		
All Axles	\$0.75	\$0.75

¹ <http://www.southernconnector.com/Zmap.htm>

Payment Methods

Cash

CONNECTOR patrons can pay tolls using the traditional cash method by either utilizing the ACMs or a toll collector. CONNECTOR employs 34 full-time and part-time collectors and supervisors working over 3 shifts (10pm to 6am; 6am to 2pm; and 2pm to 10pm).

Palmetto Pass Program (PalPass)

Hard case PalPass transponders require a refundable security deposit of \$25.00 per transponder and remain the property of the CONNECTOR. Lost, stolen or damaged hard case transponders will cause forfeiture of the security deposit. Hard case PalPass transponders are also required at the Cross Island Parkway in Hilton Head. Unlike the hard case PalPass, the PalPass sticker transponder belongs to the customer. PalPass sticker transponders are purchased by the customer at a cost of \$5.00, so there is no security deposit required.

4. Traffic & Operations Statistics

Traffic and operations statistics for Fiscal Year 2012 are presented in **Table 4**.

TABLE 4 FISCAL YEAR 2012 (January Through December)		
Accounts		
	Active	12,050
	Closed	3,939
Active Transponders		
	Hard Case	10,104
	Sticker	14,837
Plates		
	Registered for Pay by Plate	30,500
Traffic Volumes		
	Total Transactions	4,617,246
	Total ETC Transactions	1,594,497
	Total ACM Transactions	533,477
	Total Manual Transactions	2,489,272
	% ETC	34.5%
	% ACM	11.6%
	% Manual	53.9%
	Total Mainline Transactions	4,314,325
	Total Ramp Transactions	302,921
	% Mainline	93.4%
	% Ramp	6.6%
Violations		
	Approximate Violation Rate	1.5%
	Avg No. Daily Violations	180-200

Table 5 presents multi axle usage on the CONNECTOR.

TABLE 5 PERCENT OF MULTI AXLE VEHICLES				
	Year To Date-June 30, 2013		2012	
	% of Total Revenue	% of Total Transactions	% of Total Revenue	% of Total Transactions
3-Axle	3.02%	1.59%	2.46%	1.31%
4-Axle	2.79%	1.25%	2.17%	0.85%
5-Axle	7.23%	2.03%	6.05%	1.84%
6+ Axle	0.31%	0.71%	0.30%	0.08%
Total	13.35%	4.54%	10.98%	4.08%

5. Roadway Technology

The CONNECTOR has 20 lanes on the toll road. These lanes are classified in four categories. Specific lane categories have unique hardware. The four lane categories and the corresponding lane hardware are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6 LANE SUMMARY			
Category #1 ORT/Video	Category #2 ACM/ETC	Category #3 ACM/ETC/Video	Category #4 Manual/ETC
Lane Controller			
Transcore e-60 reader & Antenna > <i>Communicates with lane controller via TCP/IP</i>			
#3 Roadway Loops > <i>Discrete input device</i>	#1 Roadway Loop > <i>Discrete input device</i>		
Banner Vehicle Separator (I.R. MINI-ARRAY Emitter & Receiver) > <i>Discrete input device</i>	Ascom ACM Machine > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>		Cybertech 825T-60 Serial Printer > <i>Communicates with the MLT only no interaction w Lane Controller</i>
Sensorline Fiber Optic Treadles & Sensors L Temp Sensor 3.5-1-11> <i>Discrete input device</i>	Ascom Patron Fare Indicator > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>		Patron Fare Display (ASC0M 88500174) > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>



TABLE 6 LANE SUMMARY			
Category #1 ORT/Video	Category #2 ACM/ETC	Category #3 ACM/ETC/Video	Category #4 Manual/ETC
SAIC Violation System > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>	3 Signal Traffic Light w Violation Bell > <i>Discrete Output devices</i>		MLT "Manual Local Terminal" ELO 15-B All in One Pc w Windows XP > <i>Communicates with lane controller via TCP/IP "Has a Transcore Custom Toll Terminal GUI installed"</i>
	Employee ID Card Reader HID 5352AGN00 > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>		
	2 Signal Canopy Light > <i>Discrete Output device</i>	SAIC Violation System > <i>Communicates with lane controller via serial rs232</i>	Dynax AS431 Treadles > <i>Discrete input device</i>

There are four "toll collection points" on the CONNECTOR: two mainline plazas and two ramp plazas.

- West Plaza: Consisting of 1 ORT, 2 Manual/ETC, 1 ACM/ETC Lanes **per direction**
- East Plaza: Consisting of 1 ORT, 2 Manual/ETC, 1 ACM/ETC Lanes **per direction**
- Fork Shoals Ramps: Consisting of 1 ACM/ETC/Video Lane **per direction**
- SC20 Ramps: Consisting of 1 ACM/ETC/Video Lane **per direction**

All lanes have the same lane controllers and software setup. The Lane Controller is the main interface between the peripheral lane hardware and the computer system. The software used is the Transcore QNX ARCS OS. The **Table 7** shows the hardware that connects to the Lane Controller:

TABLE 7 LANE HARDWARE	
7 Slot passive PCI/ISA backplane	Interlogic
48 channel digital I/O (PCI)	Axiom
16 channel serial I/O	Control Hostess
Hard Drive 80GB Serial ATA 2.5"	Western Digital
CPU LBC9316 PICMG 1.0SBC Intel Core Duo CPU	Diversified Technologies
Ethernet Card (CPU has 2 Lan Ports 1 for Lane Comm 1 for AVI Reader Comm)	

The Violations Capture System (VCS) used is from SAIC. This system is a standalone PC server at each plaza connected to active violation lanes via Serial RS232 Communications Port (from SAIC PC to Lane Controller) and Corresponding Capture Cameras via BNC Coax. The SAIC PC's are built on Windows NT 4.0 Service pack 6 and use SAIC's custom software for image capture and compression. Once a day these images are uploaded/transferred to the SAIC main server from all four locations. This Server is the SAIC HIS server. From here the playback/review is done to these images. The lanes basically tell the SAIC PC's when to take an image and attach lane specific data to that image. Example: Lane ID, Violation type, time & date stamp, etc. No violation images are stored on the lane controllers.

SAIC VCS:

- Custom SAIC PC w SCSI Hard drive on Windows NT 4.0 Service pack 6
- Custom SAIC MoverScaler & Acquire Engine software
- Rear camera is an ultra-high resolution TM-1001-PSC2 (1K x 1K pixel) camera
- Stonco Par64 Housing With 1000w Flood Light

6. Back Office Technology

a. Accounts

TABLE 8 ACCOUNTS SUMMARY	
Account Type	Number of Accounts
Personal	11,945
Pay By Plate	31
Fleet	105
Non-Revenue	14

All PalPass members get a discount on each individual toll at the mainline plazas. Currently, each vehicle must have its own unique PalPass since the CONNECTOR is unable to assign more than one license plate to each transponder. It should be noted that the CONNECTOR treats every customer on a case-by-case basis and tries to be as flexible as the software will allow.

The CONNECTOR has a fleet discount program. A fleet is defined as 3 or more vehicles. The fleet program applies a credit based on the amount of tolls paid. If fleet toll expenditures within any calendar month total more than \$500.00, fleets will receive a CREDIT on the prepaid toll account on the last day of that month. Discounts are applied automatically as each expenditure threshold is reached. Credits are applied as listed in **Table 9**.

TABLE 9 FLEET DISCOUNTS	
Toll Spent	Credit Applied
\$500 - \$999	12.5%
\$1000 - \$1799	15 %
\$1800 - \$1999	20 %

b. Violations

Per South Carolina Code of Laws as amended (refer to **Attachment A**), the owner and operator of the vehicle are jointly and severally liable for a toll violation if the toll is not paid. A violation notice is sent to the vehicle's registered owner at the address on file with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the state in which the vehicle is registered. The violation notice requires payment for the toll due and an administrative fee. Failure to pay/respond to the instructions on the violation notice will result in additional administrative fees and suspension of the vehicles' registration (refer to **Attachment B** for a sample of a toll violation).

Customers can pay a toll violation in three ways: by phone, by mail, or online.

- By Phone – Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 5:00pm at 864-527-2155 or 1-866-725-7277 and speak with a violations representative.
- By Mail - Payments by credit card, check, or money order. Payments made by mail should be sent to the address shown on the violation notice.
- Online - This secure form asks for the violation number and valid credit card information. Submitting this form electronically transmits the collected data to the CONNECTOR payment processing offices. The violation payment will be credited within one business day. A printable confirmation page will be provided after submitting the violation payment.

A violation notice will be mailed to PalPass account holders under the following conditions:

- The Pal Pass did not read and the license plate of the vehicle receiving the violation notice is not on file in the patron account.
- The funds in the PalPass account were insufficient at the time of the toll transaction.

First Notices carry a fee of \$10.00 plus the toll due. If unpaid after 30 days, a Second Notice is issued which carries a fee of \$25.00 plus the toll due. If unpaid after 30 days, Second Notices go to the Citation phase.

c. Website

The CONNECTOR hosts their site through bluehost.com. The URL for the site is www.southernconnector.com. The site was re-designed approximately 2 years ago. The CONNECTOR maintains and upgrades the site.

7. Customer Service Center Operations

The Customer Service Center is located at the West Toll Plaza and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am from 5:00pm. There are two full time CSC clerks while other staff is cross trained to fill in as needed.

The CONNECTOR currently uses the Transcore Passkey Software.

III. Responder Minimum Requirements

1. General Requirements

- Desirable for RESPONDER to have proposed technology in use.
- RESPONDER may be either a U.S. or international company.
- May consider using CONNECTOR as test facility for innovative solutions.

2. Functional Requirements

- Roadside toll collection
 - Cash collection must be maintained
- Existing staff will be retained for cash collection and Customer Service Center (CSC) operations
- Accurate reporting
- Auditable system
- New server/host
- Web-based and IVR applications
- Administrative control allowing ADHOC Reporting, etc.
- User friendly website interface
- The ability to assign a single Palmetto Pass account to multiple vehicles
- Interoperability
- Violation Noticing and Payments
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)/Fingerprinting
- Archiving
- Disaster Recovery

3. Overview of Information Security Requirements and Privacy Protection

- Prefer data resides on site but open to other possibilities.
- Would need redundancy, an access plan, and disaster plan if offsite.

4. Protocol

- Any proposed new protocols must allow for interoperability with the Cross Island Parkway located in Hilton Head Island at a minimum.

5. Maintenance

- The CONNECTOR will request six to twelve months of systems training from the vendor, however ultimately system maintenance will be performed by the CONNECTOR.

IV. Terms & Conditions

1. Confidentiality & RFI Ownership

All written correspondence, exhibits, photographs, reports, other printed material, tapes, electronic disks, and other graphic and visual aids submitted in response to this RFI are, upon their receipt, the property of the CONNECTOR, and will not be returned to the submitting parties. In no event shall the CONNECTOR, or any of their agents, representatives, consultants, directors, officers or employees be liable to a RESPONDER for the disclosure of all or a portion of the information submitted in response to this RFI.

V. Response Format

1. Cover Letter

A one page cover letter shall be included with the RFI submittal package.

2. Firm Background/Contact Information

The Firm Background should include a statement describing the company, products, services, approaches, existing projects, etc within a maximum of 5 pages. Any supplemental materials may be included as an Exhibit to the Response. The Contact Information shall include a single point of contact to respond to any questions regarding the response including name, title, email address, phone number and mailing address.

3. References

The Responder shall submit a minimum of 2 references to substantiate the qualifications and experience requirements for services. References shall include point of contact name, telephone number, and email.

4. Response to RFI

The RESPONDER shall provide information on toll technology that they would propose that meets the minimum requirements defined in the RFI. Innovative solutions are welcome. The response is limited to 25 pages with a font size of 10 or above. Include only the information specified for each section.

Attachment A

Title 57 - Highways, Bridges and Ferries

CHAPTER 5.

STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

ARTICLE 1.

COMPOSITION OF AND CHANGE IN SYSTEM

SECTION 57-5-1495. Collection of tolls.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Electronic toll collection system" means a system of collecting tolls or charges which is capable of charging an account holder the appropriate toll or charge by transmission of information from an electronic device on a motor vehicle to the toll lane, which information is used to charge the account the appropriate toll or charge.

(2) "Lessor" means any person, corporation, firm, partnership, agency, association, or organization renting or leasing vehicles to a lessee under a rental agreement, lease, or otherwise wherein the said lessee has the exclusive use of the vehicle for any period of time.

(3) "Lessee" means any person, corporation, firm, partnership, agency, association, or organization that rents, leases, or contracts for the use of one or more vehicles and has exclusive use of the vehicles for any period of time.

(4) "Owner" means a person or an entity who, at the time of a toll violation and with respect to the vehicle involved in the violation, is the registrant or co-registrant of the vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles of this State or another state, territory, district, province, nation, or jurisdiction.

(5) "Photo-monitoring system" means a vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with a toll collection facility which automatically produces one or more photographs, one or more microphotographs, a videotape, or other recorded images of a vehicle at the time it is used or operated in violation of toll collection regulations.

(6) "Toll violation" means the passage of a vehicle through a toll collection point without payment of the required toll.

(7) "Vehicle" means a device in, upon, or by which a person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(B) Notwithstanding another provision of law, when a vehicle is driven through a turnpike facility without payment of the required toll, the owner and operator of the vehicle is jointly and severally liable to the Department of Transportation to pay the required toll, administrative fees, and civil penalty as provided in this section. The department or its authorized agent may enforce collection of the required toll as provided for in this section.

(C) A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by an agent of the department, or a facsimile of it, that a toll violation has occurred, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs, videotape, or other recorded images produced by a photo-monitoring system, is prima facie evidence of the violation and is admissible in any proceeding charging a toll violation pursuant to this section. A photograph, microphotograph, videotape, or other recorded image evidencing a violation must be available for inspection by the party charged and is admissible into evidence in a proceeding to adjudicate liability for a violation.

(D) The department or its authorized agent may assess and collect administrative fees of:

- (1) not more than ten dollars for the first toll violation within a period of one year;
- (2) not more than twenty-five dollars for each subsequent toll violation within a period of one year.

(E) Upon failure to pay the required toll and administrative fees to the department within thirty days of the notice, the owner or operator may be cited for failure to pay a toll pursuant to this subsection and, upon an adjudication of liability, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed fifty dollars for each violation as contained in subsection (F). Upon an adjudication of liability, a judgment must be entered against the owner or operator, and the court must mail a copy of the judgment to the owner or operator. Upon failure to satisfy the judgment within thirty days, the court shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles and the authorized agent, and the department shall suspend the registration of the vehicle that was operated when the toll was not paid and deny the vehicle's registration or reregistration pursuant to Section 56-3-1335. The suspension shall remain in effect until the judgment is satisfied and evidence of its satisfaction has been presented to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the authorized agent. An owner or operator who has been convicted of a violation of Section 57-5-1490 is not liable for the penalty imposed by this subsection.

(F) If a magistrate or municipal judge determines that the person or entity charged with liability under this section is liable, the magistrate or municipal judge shall collect the unpaid tolls and administrative fee and forward them to the department or its authorized agent. The magistrate or municipal judge also may impose a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars for each violation, plus court costs and attorney's fees. The civil penalty must be distributed in the same manner as other fines and penalties collected by the magistrate. Notwithstanding another provision of law:

(1) adjudication of liability pursuant to this section must be made by the magistrate's court of the county in which the toll facility is located or the municipal court of the city in which the toll facility is located; and

(2) an imposition of liability pursuant to this section must be based upon a preponderance of evidence submitted and is not a conviction as an operator pursuant to Section 57-5-1490.

(G) The department or its authorized agent shall send:

(1) a "First Notice to Pay Toll" to the owner or operator of a vehicle which, on one occasion in any twelve-month period, is identified as having been involved in a toll violation. The first notice must require payment to the department of the required toll, plus an administrative fee as provided for in subsection (D), within thirty days of the mailing of the notice;

(2) a "Second Notice to Pay Toll" to the owner or operator of a vehicle which is identified as having been involved in a second toll violation in a twelve-month period, or who has failed to respond to a "First Notice to Pay Toll" within the required time period. The second notice must require payment to the department of the required tolls, plus an administrative fee as provided for in subsection (D) for each violation within thirty days of the mailing of the notice;

(3) a "Failure to Pay a Toll" citation to the owner or operator of a vehicle which is identified as having been involved in a third toll violation in a twelve-month period, or who has failed to respond to the second notice within the required time period. The citation requires payment to the department of the unpaid tolls, plus an administrative fee of not more than twenty-five dollars for each violation, within thirty days, or the recipient's appearance in magistrate's court of the county in which the violation occurred or the municipal court of the city in which the violation has occurred to contest the citation. A "Failure to Pay a Toll" citation constitutes the summons and complaint for an action to recover the toll and all applicable fees allowed pursuant to this section; and

(4) notwithstanding another provision of law, the notices and citation required by subsection (G) by first-class mail to the owner or operator of the vehicle identified as being involved in the toll violation. If a vehicle is registered in two or more names, the notices or citation must be mailed to the first name listed on the registration records. Notwithstanding another provision of

law, personal delivery of the notices and citation is not required. A manual or automatic record of the mailing of the notices or citation prepared in the ordinary course of business is prima facie evidence of the mailing of the notices or citation;

(5) the notices and citation required by this subsection must contain the following information:

(a) the name and address of the person or entity alleged to be liable for a failure to pay a toll pursuant to this section;

(b) the registration number of the vehicle involved in the toll violation;

(c) the location where the toll violation took place;

(d) the date and time of the toll violation;

(e) the identification number of the photo-monitoring system which recorded the violation or other document locator number;

(f) information advising of the manner and time in which liability may be contested;

(g) warning advising that failure to contest liability in the manner and time provided in this section is an admission of liability;
and

(h) information advising that failure to pay a toll may result in the suspension of vehicle registration.

(H) If a vehicle owner receives a notice or citation pursuant to this section for a period during which the vehicle involved in the toll violation was:

(1) reported to a law enforcement division as having been stolen, a valid defense to an allegation of liability for a failure to pay a toll is that the vehicle had been reported to a law enforcement division as stolen before the time the violation occurred and had not been recovered by the time of the violation. If an owner receives a notice or citation pursuant to this section for a violation which occurred during a time period in which the vehicle was stolen, but which had not been reported to a law enforcement division as having been stolen, a valid defense to an allegation of liability for a toll violation pursuant to this section is that the vehicle was reported as stolen within two hours after the discovery of the theft by the owner. For purposes of asserting the defense provided by this subitem, a certified copy of the police report on the stolen vehicle, sent by first-class mail to the department, its agent, or the magistrate's court or the municipal court having jurisdiction of the citation within thirty days after receipt of the notices or citation, is sufficient;

(2) leased to another person or entity, the lessor is not liable for the violation if the lessor sends to the department or to the court having jurisdiction over the citation a copy of the rental, lease, or another contract document covering the vehicle on the date of the violation, with the name and address of the lessee clearly legible, within thirty days after receiving the notices or citation. Failure to send the information within the thirty-day period renders the lessor liable for the unpaid tolls and any administrative fees or penalties assessed pursuant to this section. If the lessor complies with the provisions of this subitem, the lessee of the vehicle on the date of the violation is subject to liability for the failure to pay the toll if the department or its agent mails a notice of liability to the lessee within thirty days after receipt of a copy of the rental, lease, or other contract document.

(I) If a person or entity receives a notice or citation pursuant to this section, it is a valid defense to liability that the person or entity that receives the notice was not the owner of the vehicle at the time of the toll violation.

(J) If an owner who pays the required tolls, fees, or penalties, or all of them pursuant to this section was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the violation, the owner may maintain an action for indemnification against the operator.

(K) An owner of a vehicle is not liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this section if the operator of the vehicle has been convicted of a violation of Section 57-5-1490 for the same incident.

(L) On turnpike facilities where electronic toll collection systems are utilized:

(1) a person who wants to make payment of tolls electronically must apply to the department or its authorized agent to become an account holder. The department or its authorized agent, in its discretion, may deny the application of a person. A person whose application is accepted must execute an account holder's agreement. The terms of the account holder's agreement must be established by the department;

(2) the department shall ensure that adequate and timely notice is given to all electronic toll collection system account holders to inform them when their accounts are delinquent. The owner of a vehicle who is an account holder under the electronic toll collection system is not liable for a failure to pay a toll pursuant to the provisions of this section unless the department or its authorized agent has first sent a notice of delinquency to the account holder and the account holder was delinquent at the time of the violation;

(3) the department shall not sell, distribute, or make available the names and addresses of electronic toll collection system account holders, without the account holder's consent, to any entity that uses the information for commercial purposes. However, this restriction does not preclude the exchange of this information between entities with jurisdiction over or operating a toll highway bridge or tunnel;

(4) information or data collected by the department or its authorized agent for the purpose of establishing and monitoring electronic toll collection accounts is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act;

(5) notwithstanding another provision of law, all information, data, photographs, microphotographs, videotape, or other recorded images prepared pursuant to this section must be for the exclusive use of the department or its authorized agent in the discharge of its duties under this section and must not be open to the public, subject to the disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, nor used in a court in an action or a proceeding pending unless the action or proceeding relates to the imposition of or indemnification for liability pursuant to this section.

(M) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, school buses transporting school children for a school event, shall be exempt from the payment of any tolls.

HISTORY: 1998 Act No. 407, Section 1; 2006 Act No. 267, Sections 2, 3, and 4, eff nine months after approval (approved May 2, 2006).

Attachment B



FIRST NOTICE TO PAY TOLL Connector 2000 Association - Toll Violation

P.O. Box 408
Piedmont, SC 29673

Notice: **TVN1-12345678**

Issue Date: 00/00/0000

JOE VIOLATOR
3050 STREET ROAD
TOWN, SC 00000-0000

Toll Due:	\$ 1.00
Administrative Fee:	\$ 10.00
Total Debits/Credits:	\$ 0.00
Total Due This Notice:	\$ 11.00
Payment Due Date:	00/00/0000

The vehicle identified below, which is registered in your name, was identified by the photo-monitoring system at the Southern Connector Toll Road, as having passed through a toll collection point without paying the required toll on the date and time listed below.

Pursuant to Section 57-5-1495 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1996, as amended, when a vehicle is driven through a toll facility without payment of the required toll, the owner and operator of the vehicle are jointly and severally liable to pay the required toll and any administrative fees or civil penalty that may be imposed.



Violation Occurrence:

Plate:	XXXXXXX	State:	SC
Date:	00/00/0000	Time:	13:05:09
Location:	GSC S.C. 20 Ramps East Entrance Ramp 49		

You are also being assessed a \$10.00 administrative fee for this first violation notice. You are required to pay the total due, listed above, by the payment due date, listed above, to avoid additional charges. If you fail to pay the charges imposed or incur subsequent violations within twelve months of this violation, law provides for the issuance of a second notice which imposes a \$25.00 administrative fee plus the required toll pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws, 1996 as amended. If you fail to pay the total due on the second notice on or before the payment due date, a citation will be issued, and if you are found liable for these charges, a magistrate or municipal judge shall collect the tolls and administrative fee and may also charge you a civil penalty, up to \$50.00, for each violation, plus court costs and attorney's fees.

To pay this notice or to contest liability, please follow the instructions on the second page of this notice. If you fail to timely contest the First Notice to Pay Toll in the time and manner described on the second page hereof, you admit that the toll violation occurred and that you will pay the toll and the administrative fee listed above.

If you feel that you have received this violation notice in error, you may contact the Southern Connector Service Center office at 1-866-PAL-PASS (Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).