

#### CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS TO THE 91 EXPRESS LANES

**EXPRESS LANES** 

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#### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Impacts

- Traffic volumes down approximately 80 84 percent on the 91 Express Lanes in both counties
- Toll revenues down between 77 91 percent
- Customer calls to the call center in Corona decreased by 66 percent
- Mail processing dropped by 50 percent
- Weekly new accounts decreased by 74 percent
- Staffing levels at call center reached a low in early April





## **Actions Taken to Date**

- Closed Customer Walk-In Center in Corona
- Suspended various items:
  - Monthly account maintenance fees
  - Outbound collection calls and notices
  - Franchise Tax Board Intercept Program
  - Transmittal of violations files to collections agency
  - 6C transponder distribution campaign
  - Cost of living adjustments
- Toll rates adjusted to meet traffic volume demand





#### Toll Rates – Riverside Commission Transportation Committee (RCTC)

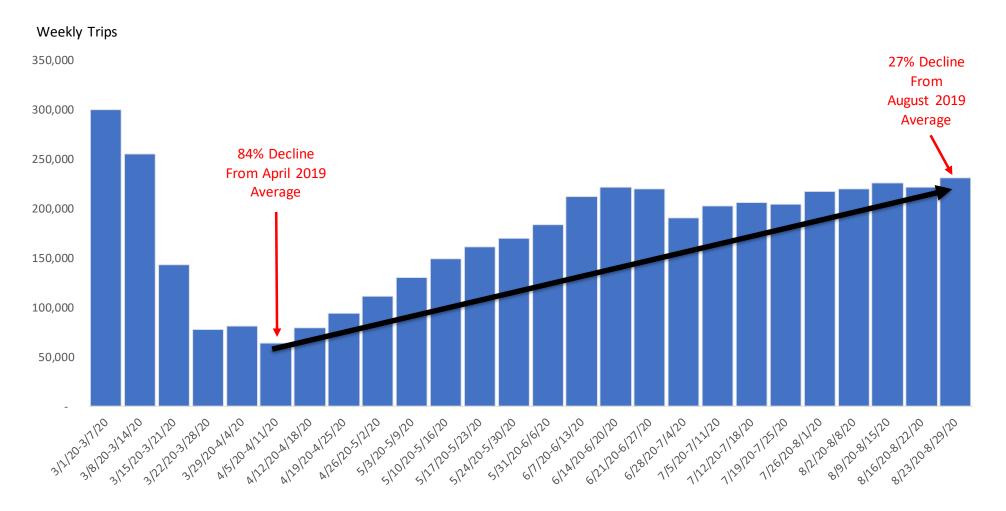
- Initial March rate reductions
  - Peak periods, mornings and afternoons
  - Comparable to adjacent "shoulder" periods
- April rate reductions
- May rates held unchanged
- Rate increases since June
  - Periodic toll rate assessment
  - Data-driven analysis



– Consistent with approved toll policy



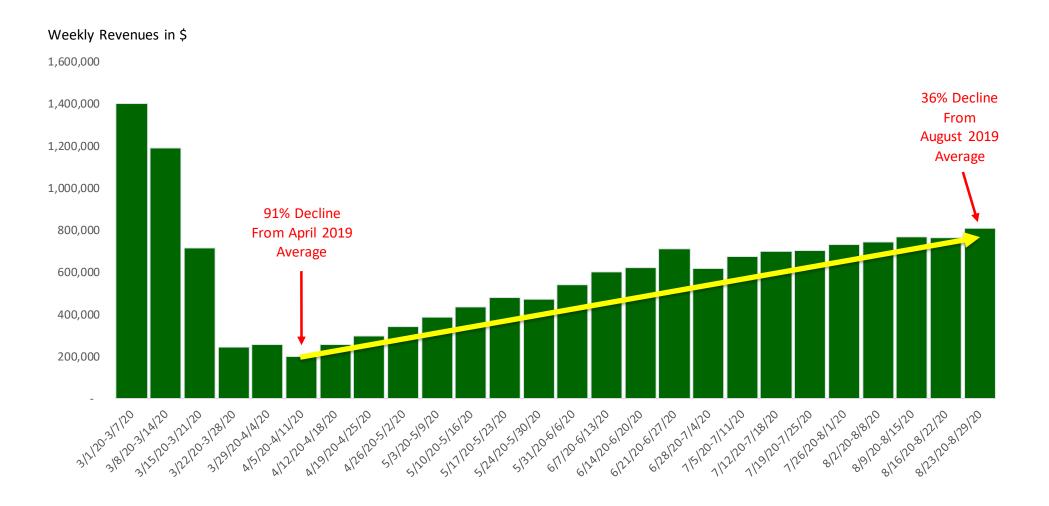
#### **Riverside County Traffic Volumes**







#### **Riverside County Potential Toll Revenues**





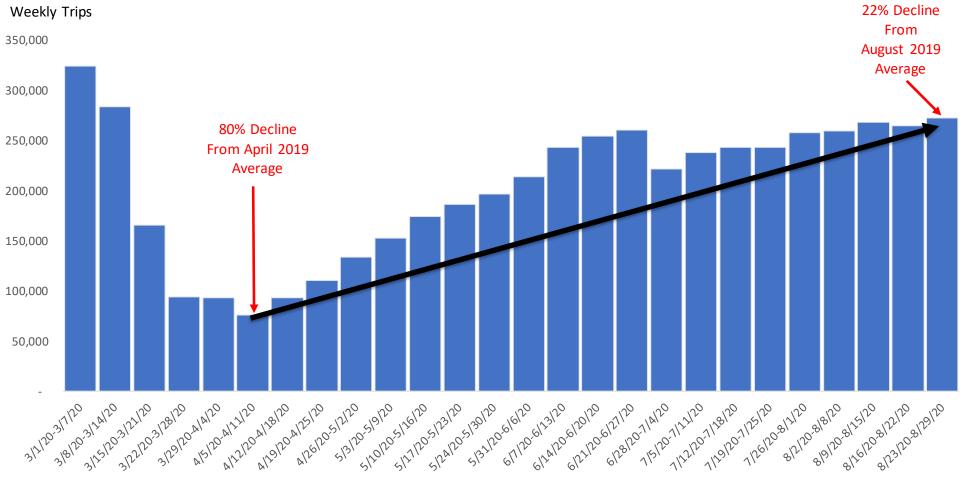
#### Toll Rates – Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)

- Temporarily modified the Toll Policy
- Modifications included:
  - Suspension of holiday toll rate schedules
  - Cost of Living Adjustment cancelled for July 1, 2020
- Toll Policy modifications ended on September 30, 2020
- Several toll rates reduced in April 2020 and July 2020 per the requirements of the Toll Policy





## **Orange County Traffic Volumes**

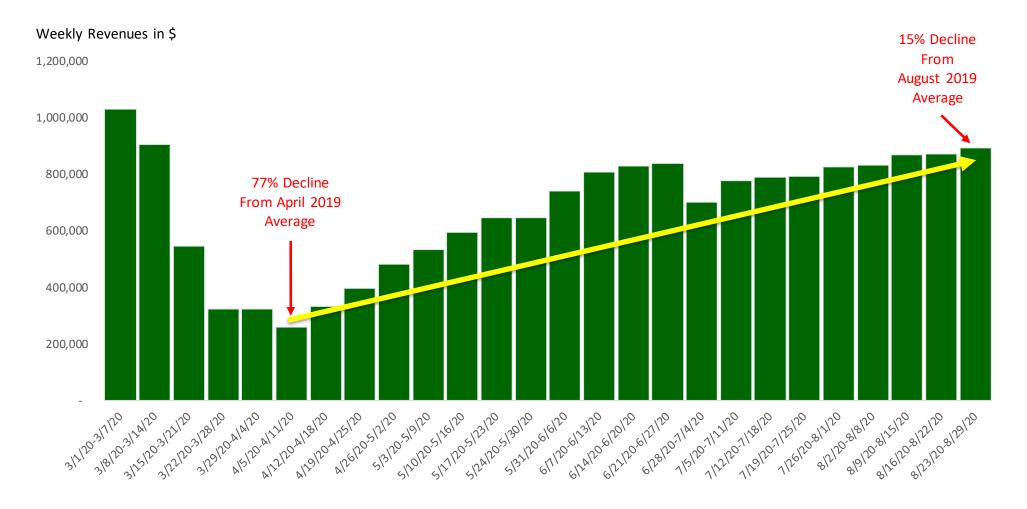




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## **Orange County Potential Toll Revenues**







# Current Conditions Compared to Pre-COVID-19

- Traffic volumes are down between 22 27 percent
- Toll revenues are down between 15 36 percent
- Customer calls to the call center in Corona are down about 36 percent (call wait times at about 20 seconds)
- Mail processing is down about 37 percent
- Weekly new accounts are down by about 13 percent
- Staffing at call center close to pre-COVID-19 levels





## Capital Projects Continue Despite COVID-19

- Back-Office System and Customer Service Center Operations
  - Workshops and system demonstrations are ongoing
  - Testing commencing early 2021
  - July 2021 transition date planned
- 241/91 Express Lanes Connector
  - Agencies continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis
  - Specialized working groups have been formed and are meeting
  - Project opening planned in late 2025





# Moving Forward

- Customer Walk-In Center in Corona to remain closed
- Resume key activities in October 2020:
  - Monthly account maintenance fees
  - Outbound collection calls and notices
  - Transmittal of violations files to collections agency
- Continue adjusting toll rates to meet traffic volume demand
- Continue with 6C transponder distribution campaign





# Next Steps

- Evaluate COVID-19 conditions and impacts to the economy
- Re-evaluate the reopening of the Customer Walk-In Center in Corona
- Monitor traffic volumes, revenues, and operational activities
- Adjust toll rates as required
- Provide updated information to OCTA Board of Directors, RCTC, and rating agencies



## **QUESTIONS?**



