OVERVIEW ON PROPOSED HIGHWAY TOLLS IN GAUTENG
GAUTENG FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (GFIP)

In an initiative aimed at encouraging people to utilise public transport and alleviating traffic congestion on Gauteng’s freeways, the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has launched the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project (GFIP).

HIGHWAY TOLL GANTRIES

As part of the project, an Open Road Toll (ORT) system will be implemented along Johannesburg’s highways. The ORT will be operated via automated electronic toll collection points and will prevent delays for motorists as there will be no physical toll plaza’s. Motor vehicles will be fitted with a transponder in the number plates. This will allow images of a motorist’s number plates to be captured electronically as a vehicle passes through the toll with the toll fees being debited off the motorist’s account. The tolls will be operational by April 2011 with gantries placed approximately every 10 kilometres along most of Gauteng’s existing freeway network.

Figure: Open Road Toll Gantry (Source: SANRAL)
ESTIMATED COST OF HIGHWAY TOLLS

The highway tolls are for now, estimated to cost a motorist 50 cents per kilometre, with final confirmation on the actual cost to be announced by SANRAL at a later stage. There will be a discounted fee applicable to frequent users. It is understood that heavy vehicles can expect to be charged up to seven times more the toll fee applicable to private cars.

By calculating the approximate distance travelled on the tolled portion of the highway for a day journey to and from work, the following information below provides an estimate of toll fees a motorist could incur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAVEL JOURNEY</th>
<th>APPROXIMATE TOLLED PORTION OF HIGHWAY *</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST (ROUNDTRIP) **</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST PER WORKING MONTH (20 DAYS)***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soweto to Sandton</td>
<td>2.7km</td>
<td>R2.70</td>
<td>R54.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg CBD to Pretoria CBD</td>
<td>51km</td>
<td>R51.00</td>
<td>R1020.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberton to Midrand</td>
<td>33.7km</td>
<td>R33.70</td>
<td>R674.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenasia South to Illovo</td>
<td>21.9km</td>
<td>R21.90</td>
<td>R438.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenvista to Woodmead</td>
<td>33.8km</td>
<td>R33.80</td>
<td>R676.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braamfontein to Centurion</td>
<td>22.2km</td>
<td>R22.20</td>
<td>R444.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randburg to Sunninghill</td>
<td>28.3km</td>
<td>R28.30</td>
<td>R566.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* - Tolled Freeway Distance as measured on Google Earth  
** - Calculation = distance x estimated cost per km x 2 (round trip)  
*** - Calculation = Roundtrip cost of tolls x 20 days
The map above shows the designated locations of the proposed highway tolls, the BRT bus routes and the Gautrain route.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVES

The Gautrain Rapid Rail Link (GRRL)
Although pricing structures have yet to be confirmed, a Gautrain trip from Park Station in Johannesburg to Hatfield Station is estimated to cost approximately R80.00. The Gautrain is due for completion in March 2011.

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
The route services will cost between R6.00 and R9.50 for a one way trip. The BRT Phase 1 A and B will be completed in May 2011.
People living and working in greater Johannesburg will soon have to give serious thought to using public transport in an effort to avoid congested roads. The cost of freeway tolls when added to rising petrol and maintenance costs will make the commute to and from areas such as Midrand a costly exercise which will have a direct impact on both employers and employees.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES
For additional information on the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project visit the National Roads Agency website at www.nra.co.za

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