

Who will pay the toll?

Have you ever wondered why Golden Gate Bridge tolls keep going up, or where that money is going?

Golden Gate Bridge tolls have gone up 100% in the last 10 years. Carpoolers didn't have to pay Bridge toll at all until July 1st, 2010. You might be wondering what is going on that would cause Bridge tolls to double in the last ten years. If you understood all the wasteful spending going on at the Golden Gate Bridge District, it may start to make sense.

Kary Witt has been the Bridge Manager of the Golden Gate Bridge for the last 13 years. That is the same period of time in which Bridge tolls have doubled. In fact, for the decade before Witt came on the scene, Bridge tolls had held steady at \$3 with no toll at all for carpoolers.

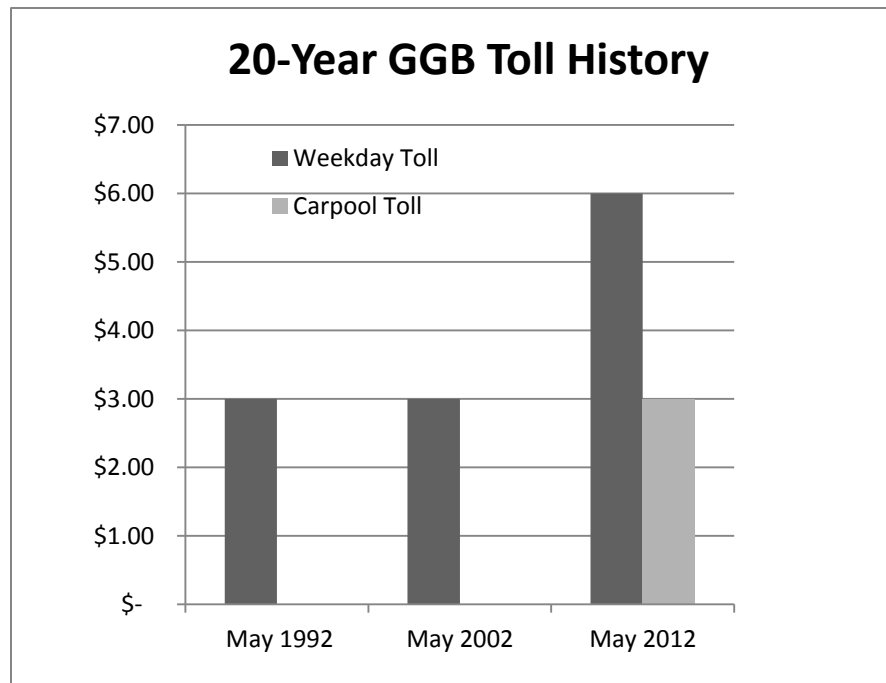
Witt's job is to be

“responsible for the day-to-day operation and

maintenance of the world famous Golden Gate Bridge,”¹ but [Golden Gate Waste](#) has found that Witt seems to be falling down on that job.

So, what HAS been happening under Witt's watch (besides your tolls going up)? Here are just a few things:

- [Lead Contamination](#): Golden Gate Waste has uncovered evidence that ongoing lead scraping projects on the Bridge have repeatedly failed to meet lead removal specifications, putting the public's health at risk.
- [Possible Recontamination After Costly Cleanups](#): In October 2011, eyewitnesses saw painters pouring or dropping contaminated materials off the northwest tower of the bridge, this after the bridge spent \$13.8 million on lead remediation from previous contamination.
- [Highly-paid Workers Sleeping on the Job](#): Golden Gate Bridge painters, some of the highest-paid industrial painters in the nation, were recently found sleeping on the job.



Source: GGG District Traffic/Toll Data, accessed 5/23/12

Witt was made aware of the sleeping, and has taken no disciplinary action against his sleeping employees.

Perhaps the Board of Directors should have looked into all of Kary Witt's [Golden Gate Waste](#) over the last ten years before they voted to double tolls and start charging carpoolers².

The bridge manager position should be an exemplary leader of the appropriate background and an experienced qualified engineer instead of Witt who would rather pass on his wasteful practices to the public than crack down on those he is responsible to manage.

Please [read new articles](#) each week as we unfold the wasteful practices at the Golden Gate Bridge.

¹ Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Employee Handbook

² [Golden Gate Bridge to charge carpoolers \\$3 toll](#) Michael Cabanatuan, Chronicle Staff Writer Saturday, May 29, 2010

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/28/MN671DMCSE.DTL#ixzz1uz3u03rj>