

# When you can't give your customers what they want

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#### TCA Toll Roads

- State Routes 73, 133, 241, 261
- Miles: 51
- Average Daily Traffic: 260,000
- Annual Toll Revenue: \$326.4 Million
- Collection Type: AET





### Our Customers Say...

"I spend a lot of money on your roads, can I get a high-volume discount?"

2



#### Analysis of the Question

- Can giving a discount to our most loyal customers lead to increased traffic and revenue?
- What are our most loyal customers really asking?

 End of cash toll collection required a revamp of Toll Road Tuesdays program.





#### Feasibility Study

The #1 reason to offer a loyalty program is if your competitor is offering one.

The trend is to unwind points based programs because they are expensive to manage.

- Commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of a traditional loyalty program for FasTrak customers -- Cogensia was awarded contract through and FRP Process
  - Original Goals:
    - Reward and recognize the Top 10% of FasTrak customers
    - Increase transactions and revenue
  - Study Scope
    - Consider TCA business model
      - All revenue is pledged to pay the bonds issued to construct 51 miles
    - Identify loyalty program options analyze
    - Quantify expected behavior changes, revenue impacts, ROI for potential programs
    - Provide Recommendations



#### Top 10% FasTrak Customers

- Top 10% FasTrak Accounts Compared to All FasTrak Accounts
  - Located close to entry ramps
  - Have more transponders
  - Spend more/drive more often
  - Drive more during rush hours
  - Drive on weekends
- Top 10% spend 7x more
- These customers need very little incentive to drive The Toll Roads
- Very price insensitive

#### **Conclusion:**

A points based rewards program to earn discounted tolls will not increase ridership for the top 10%. They are already driving The Toll Roads when ever they can.



#### Considerations and Analysis

- Fundamental Loyal Program Considerations
  - Do you want to promote retention?
  - Do you want to drive incremental revenue?
  - Do you want to rewards and recognize the value of top customers?
  - Do you want to add value for account sign up?
  - How much time and money are you willing to spend?
- Several programs and awards were simulated in a model target changed to all customers
  - For every X trips taken, earn a free trip.
  - For every X trips taken, earn a weekend trip.
  - For every X trip earn points to redeem for benefits, not tolls
    - Benefit could be entry into a sweepstakes
  - Different levels of ridership earn tiered benefits
  - Targeted communications to thank patrons



#### Study Conclusion

- A loyalty program based on points will deliver marginal ROI performance, at best
  - Sweepstakes had most potential
- Considered timing with our conversion to AET
- So what did we do?
  - Re-worked The Toll Roads Tuesday program to provide added value for all accountholders at a low implementation cost.
  - Implemented a targeted email communication to accountholders to provide account and toll road tips and to announce special offers provided by partners.



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#### The Toll Roads Rewards Program

- 1) New Goals
  - Add value and thank customers
- 2) Who is eligible?
  - All accountholder who drive one time during the month and have opted into the program.
- 3) Distribution
  - Email only

- 4) Will Toll Road Tuesday partners be interested in an email only program?
  - YES
- 5) Simple, low cost execution
- 6) Opportunity to provide accountholders additional information
  - About The Toll Roads
  - About policies and initiatives



#### **Implementation**

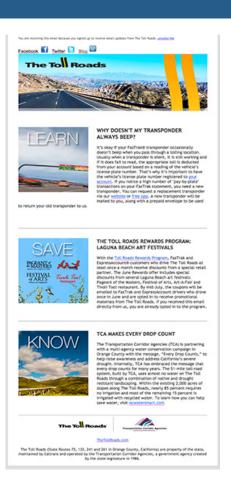
- Offer is negotiated with the partner and scheduled
  - Partner provides artwork and the unique discount
  - Approval checklist and deadline calendar
- On the last day of each month an email is sent to accountholders who have opted in with three sections:

LEARN: Account and Toll Road tips

SAVE: Announce the next month's reward

for driving at least once

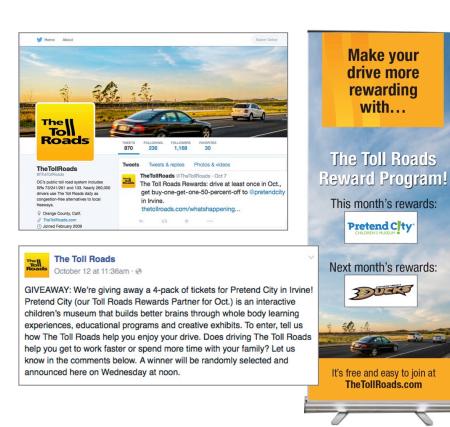
KNOW: Agency news





#### **Implementation**

- Writing and design is done in-house
- Lobby banner
- Social media component to promote the promotion, increase awareness for the partner and tease the offer to drivers.
  - Partners like this because they get increased exposure.
  - Negotiate free tickets to raffle off during the month through social media.



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#### Implementation

- At the end of each month a query is run for eligible accounts
- An email is sent mid-month with a Thank You message and the offer coupon



11



# Results

		Number of Number of			Drivers	% of opt-		
Icontact Email Subject	Date Sent	Fastrak Opt	Express	Total		ins and	Open ratio rate	Redemptions
		in	Account		drove	drove		
Omni La Costa September Promotion	10/6/15				173,172	55%	29.3% as of 10/12	
September - Latest News & Savings: Online Safety, Pretend City and More	9/30/15	290,728	29,338	313,934			23.20%	
Hertz August Promotion	9/9/15				265,823	85%	19.2% as of 9/9	0
August - Latest News & Savings: Online Toll Calculator, Omni La Costa Resort and More	8/31/15	289,983	29,212	314,086			24.7% as of 9/3	
Muzeo July Promotion	8/7/15				177,914	57%	28.8% as of 8/19	285
July - Latest News and Savings: Hertz, Help Your Summer Guests, CHP Catches Violators	7/30/15	290,056	29,159	313,245			24.80%	
Art Festival June Promotion	7/7/15				177,916	57%	31.20%	Festival of Arts 172, Pageant of the Masters 805, Art-A-Fair 43, Tivoli 5
June - Latest News & Savings: MUZEO Museum, Summer Road Trips & More	6/30/15	288,952	29,001	312,124			23.20%	
Catalina May Promotion	5/8/15				176,228	56%	31.6% as of June 15	6
				-				
Laguna Beach Art Festivals, Transponder Beeps & More	5/29/15	287,035	28,776	315,811			27.6% as of June 3	
Angels April Promotion	5/7/15				176,815	57%	36.6% as of May 13	856



#### What We've Learned

- Customers will press reply to the email and ask all sorts of questions
  - Cleaning up email changes
  - Customer questions "I've been meaning to ask"
  - Ask questions that become future stories
- Emails have generated new partners
- News media coverage deals columnist

Partners booked through November 2016 Partners like the program and request the following year



## Tips

- Make the process simple for you and your customers
- Create an editorial calendar and schedule dates for running queries
- Create guidelines for the types of partners you will agree to
  - Access from toll roads
- Sporting events

Simple offer

Restaurants -- Chains

Destinations

- Services with a nexus
- Create a unique look and feel
- Use social media to support the program
- Test the links and notify the partner when email with offer goes out



# Finally,

Be ready when they say:

"I spend a lot of money on your roads, can I get a high-volume discount?"



#### **Partners**























