

**【Eliminating the Traffic Congestion on Routes 180 and 53 by Utilizing Expressways】**

*<<For example, the expressway toll between the Okayama Soja Interchange and the Kibi Smart Interchange will be from 380 yen to 120 yen! >>*

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

I am thinking of carrying out a social experiment to discount expressway tolls.

For one thing, it's the experiment of the toll discount for drivers who use the Kibi Smart Interchange(IC). This will be conducted all day from the beginning of October to the end of November this year. If a driver uses the Kibi Smart IC and get on and off at the ICs in Okayama Prefecture (except for the Mizushima IC and the Kojima IC), 150 yen will be uniformly discounted from a regular toll.

For example, between the Okayama Soja IC and the Kibi Smart IC, the toll of standard-sized car will be 230 yen from 380 yen. Furthermore, with registration of ETC Mileage Service and its weekday morning and evening discount, drivers will get a 50% reimbursement, so the actual toll will be 120 yen.

To use expressways on daily basis, the toll being 120 yen from 380 yen is thought to be a big impact both economically and psychologically. I would like many people to try and experience a stress-free drive.

Through this experiment, it is expected to eliminate the congestion on Route 180 by drivers shifting to expressways and to ease the congestion around Tsushima (Sports Park) on Route 53 by encouraging drivers to use the Kibi Smart IC rather than the Okayama IC.

For another, we plan to conduct the social experiment on Saturdays, Sundays and

holidays from 18 August to 24 December this year. If whichever of the 12 ICs around Okayama City, Soja City, Kibi Chuo Cho and Maniwa City are used for a day out, the toll of standard-sized car will be 2,000 yen and that of mini-vehicle and motorcycle will be 1,600 yen, no matter how many times a driver will get on or off at the designated ICs. During this period, drivers will be able to use this service up to twice. (Advance application is required.)

Usually, it costs 3,960 yen just to go back and forth between the Okayama IC and the Hiruzen IC by standard-sized car. So I believe this discount will make drivers feel it's a real bargain.

In addition, while this experiment is carried out, discounts of facilities targeting such drivers are scheduled. I hope many people will join and enjoy attractive places.