

**Public hearing on Tolls
Hearing Room 1E
Feb. 23, 2009, 10 AM**

Concerns regarding adding tolls

- 1) Construction costs and traffic delays while building the toll booths. The time it takes to design and build the toll booths would take many weeks or months, and therefore a considerable amount of time will pass before collection of tolls would begin.
- 2) Public Safety is at risk when tolls are on highways. Deaths could occur to some Connecticut taxpayers who otherwise pay sales and other taxes to the State.
- 3) Fuel is wasted and pollution is created when traffic is backed up at tolls. This is not the environment we want to promote in Connecticut.
- 4) Increased toll booth staffing costs, including 24/7 wages, benefits, overhead, and administrative costs.
- 5) Each set of toll booths require 24/7 state troopers/vehicles to enforce tolls. That will likely require the hiring and training of additional troopers.
- 6) Some of the highway auto and truck traffic will defer to roads that are parallel to Interstate highways (eg, US-1, US-5) in order to bypass tolls, creating traffic hazards and potential increase of accidents on those roads.

Recommended alternative

Operate existing truck weighing stations 24/7 and charge those trucks a toll fee. Because the weighing stations already exist, collection of the toll fees can begin immediately and increase as more troopers and weighing station operators become available to achieve a full 24/7 operation.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Al Phillips
Glastonbury, Connecticut