

General Assembly's Transportation Committee
Regarding Bill on Tolls

Tolls should be charged to all vehicles that use the interstate highway system in CT. These tolls should be levied in a fair and equitable manner to all vehicles whether they are passing through the state or operating within the state's borders. The logical highways to install tolling on would be I-95, I-84, the Merritt and Wilber Cross Parkways, and, perhaps, I-91.

The system of tolling should be as easy and convenient to use as possible. The current EZPass technology would be ideal since states in the northeast all use it. Every entrance ramp should register a vehicle as it enters the highway. Every exit ramp should charge a toll based on distance travelled and, possibly, on time of day usage. Higher traffic times would incur higher toll rates. All tolling would be of the high-speed type where vehicles don't need to slow down. For vehicles without EZPass transponders there could be automated photographic systems to send billing to the registered owner of the vehicle. Having manned toll booths should be avoided. Stopping to pay tolls should be avoided for safety reasons.

There are many interchanges along I-95 in Fairfield County. Perhaps some of those could be closed. There are quite a number of vehicles that get on and go one or two exits and get off. This adds to the congestion and could be avoided if all vehicles were charged to use the highway no matter how short the trip. Many people would avoid the short trips if they were being charged for them.

Adding tolls to the major highways should help to raise needed funds for infrastructure maintenance and help to reduce traffic congestion. Perhaps some of the projects to widen the highways could be avoided also thereby reducing the burden to taxpayers.

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