

I grew up in PA and anywhere you wanted to travel quickly you used the PA Turnpike, a TOLL Road. So I have been paying tolls for many years.

When I moved to CT there were tolls here so I still lived with the same issues.

Then they took off the tolls, because they said the bonds had been retired and did not need the tolls anymore. Plus the tolls were a hazard the way they were set up.

I recently went to Virginia Beach and paid tolls most of the way down. Some heavy tolls on the bridges.

I worked in NY for a while and used the Merritt Pkwy to get to work. I bought an annual license plate for the front of my car that let me go through the toll booths without paying. That helped to move traffic as well as saved me money.

That is a little background to what I have to say about reinstating tolls in CT.

Lets face it CT is a pass through state. A very large number of trucks and cars are just passing through from NY to the Cape or Boston or VT. And later they come back. The same goes for the MA drivers going to NY or south. Then they come back. The heavy trucks continue to tear up our highways without paying a toll.

Tell me where you can go in NY without paying a toll, almost nowhere, even if you are going up north on the Taconic or NY Thruway.

I have always resented NY and MA cars pushing me along on 95, Merritt and 84 for free when I have to pay when I go to their state.

I agree that we should reinstate the tolls at our borders, on I95 in Greenwich and the RI border, Merritt at Greenwich, 84 in Danbury and Union, 91 at Enfield and I395 in both Thompson, (Mass. border) and Killingly, (RI border). I have heard the stories that the Feds will cut our funding. Well I recently read an article indicating that the Feds are running out of funds and will soon be cutting back transportation funds to the states. Don't let the special interest groups plead "not in my back yard". This is for the good of the State as a whole, not individual towns.

Why not take advantage of this time to install Eazy Pass with high-speed lanes that do not slow down traffic. We certainly could use the money to help our transportation issues including the infrastructure. We must make certain that the money collected goes into a transportation fund only and not let the legislators spend it at their leisure.

CT residents who work out of state should get reduced rates and that can easily be done by using easy pass. Most of the bridges and roads in NY and NJ give reduced rates to those who use easy pass and they could be programmed for those who work out of state, just as the old license plates we once to used.

This is a no brainer and should be passed as quickly as possible. This is the fairest way to levy a tax. This is a use tax and only those who choose to drive across the border would pay. There are millions of dollars just sitting out there to be taken. Let's not let this get away. Put the TOLLS back on, don't cave in to the special interests.

Thank you for your time.

Lee Hossler – 272 Stanley Road – Monroe, CT 06468 – 203-261-5702 –
dlhossler@sbcglobal.net