

We have to recognize that Connecticut is a drive-through state for the preponderance of traffic. Much of that traffic is in the form of tractor trailers, which cause the greatest damage to our highways. In New England, Massachusetts collects border tolls for the Mass Pike., New Hampshire does so for the small portion of I95 that passes through, and so does Maine. Those states, including Connecticut, all lie on the drive-through access to Northern New England.

We stopped collecting tolls as the result of a terrible accident years and years back. Things have changed. With EZPass it is now possible to avoid long toll lines and even, as New Hampshire has shown, to offer high speed lanes. We have used EZPass for years and it works. And with that system it would be possible for CT residents not to have pay the toll when entering from out of state.

But, and this is a big but, it will be necessary to make absolutely certain that the legislature and the governor cannot in any way remove funds from the Special Transportation fund. We also need to be certain that the toll collection only applies to four-lane interstate highways.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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