

Mainiero, Phil

From: Amy Sanborn <yukon125@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:51 PM
To: tratestimony
Cc: Sen. Boucher, Toni; Sen. Hwang, Tony; zRepresentative Adam Dunsby
Subject: My reasoning as why tolls are not an appropriate option

To whom it may concern,

My parents moved with me to Weston, CT in 1960. I grew up with tolls on I95 until they were removed. We avoided tolls by taking 95 southbound from exit 16 in Norwalk if heading south, or entering at exit 18 if heading north. If tolls are reintroduced on I95 there will be many negative impacts.

Toll avoidance puts undue traffic on local streets, increasing congestion and creating wear and tear on local roads. All one needs to see is the impact on the Post Road in every coastal town when there is an accident nearby on I95.

My family's experience was for discretionary trips. What about the people who must travel the interstates for jobs? There is no discretion there. Won't it be our CT residents who are middle and lower income who have little or no control over their work schedules who will suffer the greatest impact with congestion pricing? In fact, this appears to be a regressive tax, hurting those the most with the greatest financial insecurity.

I'd like you to consider the proportion of CT drivers who would suffer the impact of the tolls. I believe that there will be more CT drivers who would be paying this "tax" than those who are simply passing through our state. Further, I don't see any offsetting reduction to our already extremely high gas tax being proposed.

Is there any impact related to CT receiving Federal funding if this approach is adopted?

Though opposed to tolls, where would the toll money go? Is there a "lock box" to make sure these revenues would at least be reinvested in transportation-related spending?

What are the statistics related to the impact on CT businesses? Whenever I am at the Danbury Fair Mall, the plethora of NY State license plates has always been a positive surprise to me. How many of these mall patrons might choose not to frequent our mall if there were a toll plaza between NY and our mall? What would be the financial impact to our businesses?

What would be the financial investment required to implement a toll system on our roads? How would toll billing be implemented? It must be EZ Pass or electronic billing...no toll booths. Remember that tragic accident on I95? What is the cost of implementing the infrastructure to bill drivers? What is the administrative cost of EZ Pass or photo billing?

From where would the implementation money be derived? Inappropriately considering requiring cities and towns to fund a portion of the State's teacher pension obligations? Inappropriately considering reducing special education excess cost sharing money? Money from inappropriately considering regionalizing health districts within the State?

I believe the proposal of tolls on CT highways should be dead on arrival. I believe this is a ill-thought-out, potential money grab to solve much greater, much more serious fiscal issues within our State with major attendant negative "unintended" consequences for the residents and towns in our State.

Amy Sanborn

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail