

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Connecticut

TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING ELECTRONIC TOLLS
February 27, 2017

I am Robert Yirigian, Vice President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC/CT), representing over 90 engineering firms providing independent engineering services to the public and private sector.

On behalf of ACEC/CT, I would like to testify in support of the various bills before this Committee proposing electronic tolling to fund improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure.

I believe it is clear that the current funding sources for the state's Special Transportation Fund, including federal funds, are inadequate to meet the state's need for a safe and efficient transportation system. In addition, the fuel tax and the gross receipts tax will become even more problematic as electric and alternative fuel vehicles become more popular and automobiles become more efficient and generate less taxes for the fund.

Our neighboring states have all adopted electronic tolls as a fair and effective means of raising revenue for their transportation systems. It can be said that out of state drivers are now driving free on Connecticut's highways.

Although tolls are not the "magic bullet" that will solve our transportation funding problem, it can be an effective source of revenue that should be seriously considered here in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Robert Yirigian, PE
Vice President, American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC/CT)