



**Analysis: The significant costs incurred should tolls be instituted in CT**

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By Ralph Villers

The *Valley-Voice* never wants to wade into the political arena, be it local, state or national. However, when one sees legislative proposals that directly impact ourselves, it bears looking at then a little more closely.

The issue here is tolls, more specifically, Connecticut legislator proposals on instituting tolls on all limited access highways in the state (Routes 2, 3, 8, 9, 15; I-91, I-95, I-291, I-395 and I-691.) The common sentiment is that the state would never use all toll revenue for transportation/roads, but siphon off a substantial amount into the general fund - a sentiment I share.

Further, adding tolls could lead to reduced federal funding to the state. See more at this state commissioned [report from 2015](#).

However, my purpose is to show how tolls could impact my travels in the state.

**What could the toll rates (two-axle) be?**

| Selected toll roads  |                          | Miles      | Cash           | Cost/Mile      | Toll           |                |
|--|--------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |                          |            |                |                | EZ-Pass*       | Cost/Mile      |
| PA Turnpike 43   | WV State Line - Clairton | 47         | \$8.80         | \$0.187        | \$5.74         | \$0.122        |
| N.H. Turnpike  | Seabrook - Portsmouth    | 15         | \$2.00         | \$0.133        | \$1.40         | \$0.093        |
| Maine Turnpike   | York - Augusta           | 102        | \$7.00         | \$0.069        | \$6.45         | \$0.063        |
| Ohio Turnpike  | PA State Line - I-77     | 68         | \$5.25         | \$0.077        | \$3.50         | \$0.051        |
| <i>* e-zpass toll rates in the subject states (PA, NH, ME, OH)</i> |                          |            |                |                |                |                |
| <b>Avg. cost per mile, selected toll roads</b>                     |                          | <b>232</b> | <b>\$23.05</b> | <b>\$0.099</b> | <b>\$17.09</b> | <b>\$0.074</b> |

In this regard, nobody should argue for tolls because other states have tolls on select highways. Each of those toll highways were built and are maintained by state turnpike commissions who receive no funding from the federal government.

I took a look at four toll roads and their toll schedules, both cash and EZ-Pass, then averaged the cost per mile for all four roads that are used in my cost analysis below. Links: [PA Turnpike 43](#), [NH Blue Star Turnpike](#), [Maine Turnpike](#), [Ohio Turnpike](#)

**How could these tolls affect me?**

| Route   | Miles | Tolls per mile / Total Costs |                |          |               |
|---|-------|------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------------|
|   |       | Cash                         | Cost           | EZ-Pass* | Cost          |
| <b>To East Windsor, CT</b>                          |       |                              |                |          |               |
| CT 15, Exit 58 - I-91, Meriden                      | 21    | \$0.099                      | \$2.08         | \$0.074  | \$1.55        |
| I-91, Meriden - I-91, Exit 35, I-291, Windsor       | 22    | \$0.099                      | \$2.18         | \$0.074  | \$1.63        |
| <b>Toll Costs, One Way</b>                          |       |                              | <b>\$4.26</b>  |          | <b>\$3.18</b> |
| <b>Toll Costs, Round Trip</b>                       |       |                              | <b>\$8.51</b>  |          | <b>\$6.36</b> |
| <b>To East Granby, CT</b>                           |       |                              |                |          |               |
| CT 15, Exit 58 - I-91, Meriden                      | 21    | \$0.099                      | \$2.08         | \$0.074  | \$1.55        |
| I-91, Meriden - I-91, Exit 40, CT 20, Windsor Locks | 31    | \$0.099                      | \$3.07         | \$0.074  | \$2.29        |
| <b>Toll Costs, One Way</b>                          |       |                              | <b>\$5.15</b>  |          | <b>\$3.85</b> |
| <b>Toll Costs, Round Trip</b>                       |       |                              | <b>\$10.30</b> |          | <b>\$7.70</b> |

Based on the estimated toll rates in the table above, I offer two examples and their cost impact.

- 1) I have a sister who lives in East Windsor. To visit her and her family, the route from Ansonia includes traveling on Route 15 and I-91 to I-291 then US 5 in South Windsor.
- 2) I have the adaptive equipment on my wheelchair van serviced at Advanced Wheels of Technology in East Granby. That routing is Route 15 and I-91 to Route 20 in Windsor Locks. The preceding table shows the substantial costs I'd incur.

That is a lot of money to get necessary maintenance on my vehicle or to visit a relative. And I believe that toll rates in this state would be at a *much higher* cost per mile.

Granted, this is an estimate. However, take a look for yourself and see how tolls on Connecticut highways will negatively affect your travels. Please send your comments to [thevalley.voicect@gmail.com](mailto:thevalley.voicect@gmail.com)