

Transportation Committee Testimony LCO #373
Public Hearing January 31, 2020

Co-Chair: Senator Leone
Co-Chair: Representative Lemar
Members of the Committee

I am writing to you to **OPPOSE: DRAFT Bill LCO #373 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

I say to the legislative proposal for tolls in Connecticut: **“NO, NO, NO! No tolls in Connecticut! No new taxes!”** I cannot support legislation that in any manner or in any way authorizes or otherwise commits the State of Connecticut to TOLLS on any of its roads or bridges.

Governor Lamont said previously that he didn't want to hear "no", he wanted to hear alternatives. So, here is my alternative.

1. REDUCE the budget by 5% to 8%. I am appalled that the Governor's budget was an increase. Connecticut's budget needs to be reduced.

2. Given the reductions in the budget, the 'deferred revenues' in the Governor's budget should be reinstated to funding the Transportation Fund. Gross receipts taxes on gas and diesel. Sales taxes on gasoline and diesel. New car sales taxes. These are all designed as revenue for the Transportation Fund. Any deferral is just wrong. Make the Governor put the money back into the Transportation Fund.

3. Use the Transportation Fund as intended, for "road construction and maintenance, ONLY". The DMV budget should not be funded through the Transportation Fund, both operations and benefits. The DOT administration and all benefits should not be funded through the Transportation Fund. The only portion I can accept is direct construction and maintenance costs by DOT employees; not administration, oversight and inspection.

4. The Transportation Fund will then be sufficient for all of our road construction and "tolls will not be needed'

I URGE YOU TO VOTE "NO" ON ANY LEGISLATION BROUGHT BEFORE THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE!

Thank you.

Bruce Tolhurst
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