

REPORT

To: Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Richard A. Davey, Secretary and CEO

Date: October 30, 2013

Subject: **Proposed Fee Structure for Collecting Tolls on Turnpike Interchanges 1 – 6
(As required by Chapter 76 of the Acts of 2013, Section 62)**

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Pursuant to Section 76 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2013, within 90 days after the effective date of the act, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall provide to the joint committee on transportation and the house and senate committees on ways and means a plan to implement a proposed fee structure for collecting tolls for transit over the turnpike between interchange 1 in the town of West Stockbridge and interchange 6 in the city of Springfield at interstate highway route 291, inclusive, which shall include, but not be limited to, the proposed fees, assumptions used to set the fees and a timeline to implement collection of the fees.

Chapter 46, Section 13 of the Acts of 2013 states in pertinent part that, "The department shall devise and implement a fair and reasonable fee structure to charge and collect tolls for transit over the turnpike between interchange 1 in the town of West Stockbridge and interchange 6 in the city of Springfield at interstate highway route 291."

The proposed fee structure is based on toll rates that were in effect in 1996 when the tolls were removed at Exits 1 - 6 on the Western Turnpike. Since that time no toll has been charged for passenger vehicle travel between Exits 1 - 6. The only change from the 1996 toll structure is the addition of a toll for travel to and from Interchange 10A as this ramp opened in 1998. The toll for Interchange 10A to each location was devised by averaging the toll charged to travel to/from Interchanges 10 and 11.

Implementation of the tolls took place on October 15, 2013.

Approximately \$12 million in additional revenue will be collected annually. The additional revenue will be used to fund capital projects on the Western Turnpike. These capital projects include bridge repairs, deck resurfacing, deck replacement and painting, culvert repairs, roadway pavement resurfacing and guardrail, sign and lighting replacements.

According to the Dewberry Engineers' 2012 Massachusetts Turnpike Western Turnpike Conditions Report, the Western Turnpike has been operating in and is maintained in good fashion, but it is noted that some inspection ratings have declined compared to previous reports. The report stated that the annual capital construction budget is not able to conduct the work necessary to maintain the Turnpike. The Dewberry report recommends that \$250 million is needed for repairs and maintenance along the Turnpike; the projected \$12 million collected from the tolls is a small fraction of the recommended amount.

There is very little cost to MassDOT to reinstate the tolls at interchanges 1 – 6. Minor costs include reprogramming of the electronic toll collection software system and the public awareness/advertising costs to inform the public of the change in the toll structure.

MassDOT convened 2 public hearings on September 10, 2013 in Lee and on September 12, 2013 in Springfield. Oral and written testimony was accepted at those meetings. There was also a 1 week comment period after the hearings.

In addition, MassDOT E-ZPass customer service has had a presence in several Western Turnpike communities to provide customers an opportunity to obtain new transponders and assist them with joining E-ZPass. Customers may join E-ZPass online, over the telephone, or at one of the 21 RMV branches, 32 AAA locations, or five Herb Chambers dealerships.

The four E-ZPass Customer Service Centers are located at:

- 27 Midstate Drive, Auburn, MA 01501
- 145 Havre Street, East Boston, MA 02128
- Natick Service Plaza, Eastbound on the Turnpike at Mile Marker 117, Natick, MA 01760
- Square One Mall, 1201 Broadway, Route 1 South, Saugus, MA 01906

To date, there are a total of 2,011,130 E-ZPass transponders assigned to 1,209,833 active accounts.

The MassDOT Board of Directors approved the toll structure appearing on page 3 of this report on September 25, 2013.

TOLL RATE SCHEDULE																	
MassDOT Western Turnpike																	
Current (Pre-October 15, 2013)																	
2-Axle Passenger Vehicles - E-Z Pass Massachusetts Rates																	
Exit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10A	11	11A	12	13	14	15
Entry																	
01	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
02	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
03	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
07	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.35	\$0.80	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$2.00	\$2.30	\$2.50	\$3.40
08	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.35	N/A	\$0.55	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$1.15	\$1.55	\$1.60	\$1.75	\$2.10	\$3.00
09	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$0.80	\$0.55	N/A	\$0.50	\$0.65	\$0.75	\$1.10	\$1.30	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.65
10	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.35	\$1.00	\$0.50	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.70	\$0.85	\$1.05	\$1.30	\$2.20
10A	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.45	\$1.10	\$0.65	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.70	\$0.90	\$1.20	\$2.10
11	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.50	\$1.15	\$0.75	\$0.25	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.45	\$0.65	\$0.85	\$1.10	\$2.00
11A	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$1.80	\$1.55	\$1.10	\$0.70	\$0.50	\$0.45	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$0.70	\$1.60
12	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$1.30	\$0.85	\$0.70	\$0.65	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.30	\$0.50	\$1.40
13	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$2.30	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$1.05	\$0.90	\$0.85	\$0.45	\$0.30	N/A	\$0.30	\$1.20
14	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$2.50	\$2.10	\$1.75	\$1.30	\$1.20	\$1.10	\$0.70	\$0.50	\$0.30	N/A	N/A
15	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.40	\$3.00	\$2.65	\$2.20	\$2.10	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$1.40	\$1.20	N/A	N/A

TOLL RATE SCHEDULE
MassDOT Western Turnpike
Effective Date: October 15, 2013

2-Axle Passenger Vehicles - E-Z Pass Massachusetts Rates

Exit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10A	11	11A	12	13	14	15
Entry																	
01	N/A	\$0.45	\$1.40	\$1.60	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$1.90	\$2.15	\$2.70	\$3.15	\$3.25	\$3.40	\$3.80	\$4.00	\$4.20	\$4.70	\$5.60
02	\$0.45	N/A	\$1.05	\$1.20	\$1.30	\$1.35	\$1.55	\$1.80	\$2.35	\$2.85	\$2.95	\$3.10	\$3.50	\$3.75	\$3.80	\$4.40	\$5.20
03	\$1.40	\$1.05	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.35	\$0.45	\$0.50	\$0.80	\$1.35	\$1.80	\$1.90	\$2.00	\$2.40	\$2.55	\$2.70	\$3.00	\$3.90
04	\$1.60	\$1.20	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$0.60	\$1.20	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$1.80	\$2.20	\$2.35	\$2.50	\$2.85	\$3.75
05	\$1.65	\$1.30	\$0.35	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.30	\$0.50	\$1.15	\$1.55	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$2.10	\$2.30	\$2.45	\$2.75	\$3.65
06	\$1.75	\$1.35	\$0.45	\$0.25	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$1.10	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$2.25	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.60
07	\$1.90	\$1.55	\$0.50	\$0.45	\$0.30	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.35	\$0.80	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$2.00	\$2.30	\$2.50	\$3.40
08	\$2.15	\$1.80	\$0.80	\$0.60	\$0.50	\$0.45	\$0.35	N/A	\$0.55	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$1.15	\$1.55	\$1.60	\$1.75	\$2.10	\$3.00
09	\$2.70	\$2.35	\$1.35	\$1.20	\$1.15	\$1.10	\$0.80	\$0.55	N/A	\$0.50	\$0.65	\$0.75	\$1.10	\$1.30	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.65
10	\$3.15	\$2.85	\$1.80	\$1.60	\$1.55	\$1.50	\$1.35	\$1.00	\$0.50	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.70	\$0.85	\$1.05	\$1.30	\$2.20
10A	\$3.25	\$2.95	\$1.90	\$1.70	\$1.65	\$1.60	\$1.45	\$1.10	\$0.65	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.70	\$0.90	\$1.20	\$2.10
11	\$3.40	\$3.10	\$2.00	\$1.80	\$1.75	\$1.70	\$1.50	\$1.15	\$0.75	\$0.25	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.45	\$0.65	\$0.85	\$1.10	\$2.00
11A	\$3.80	\$3.50	\$2.40	\$2.20	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$1.80	\$1.55	\$1.10	\$0.70	\$0.50	\$0.45	N/A	\$0.25	\$0.45	\$0.70	\$1.60
12	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$2.55	\$2.35	\$2.30	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$1.30	\$0.85	\$0.70	\$0.65	\$0.25	N/A	\$0.30	\$0.50	\$1.40
13	\$4.20	\$3.80	\$2.70	\$2.50	\$2.45	\$2.40	\$2.30	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$1.05	\$0.90	\$0.85	\$0.45	\$0.30	N/A	\$0.30	\$1.20
14	\$4.70	\$4.40	\$3.00	\$2.85	\$2.75	\$2.70	\$2.50	\$2.10	\$1.75	\$1.30	\$1.20	\$1.10	\$0.70	\$0.50	\$0.30	N/A	N/A
15	\$5.60	\$5.20	\$3.90	\$3.75	\$3.65	\$3.60	\$3.40	\$3.00	\$2.65	\$2.20	\$2.10	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$1.40	\$1.20	N/A	N/A