

The Tolling Debate in CT:

Where we've been & where we might go



Tom Maziarz, Chief of Planning
CTDOT, Thomas.Maziarz@ct.gov

2019-01-30

Agenda

1. Background recent tolling discussion in CT
2. Presentation of 2018 study results
3. Recent election results & next steps

When & why CT started discussing tolls: Chronology

Value Pricing Studies

- Value Pricing Program = special federal exemption for tolling

Focus on only 2 corridors:

- I-95 SW CT & I-84 Viaduct Hartford

Governor's Transp. Finance Panel

- Appointed to recommend funding options
- Recommends statewide tolling to address long-term needs

Governor's Executive Order

- Directed CTDOT to prepare tolling plan
- Plan completed in 2018

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Strategic Transportation Plan: *Let's Go CT*

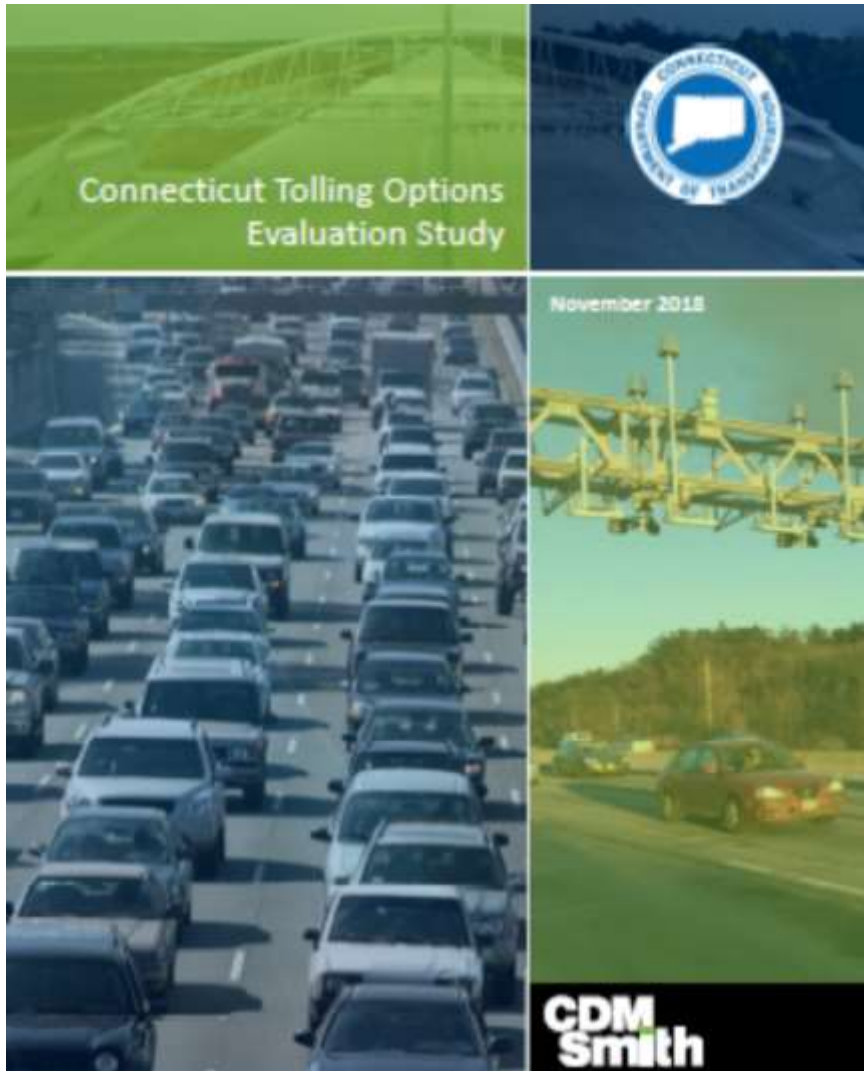
- Broad statewide perspective
- Highlighted huge backlog of preservation projects & congestion problems
- Raised questions on how to fund statewide program



Funding for Next Phase

- State Bond Commission allocates \$10 Million for next tolling phase
- **NEPA & Final Toll Plan**

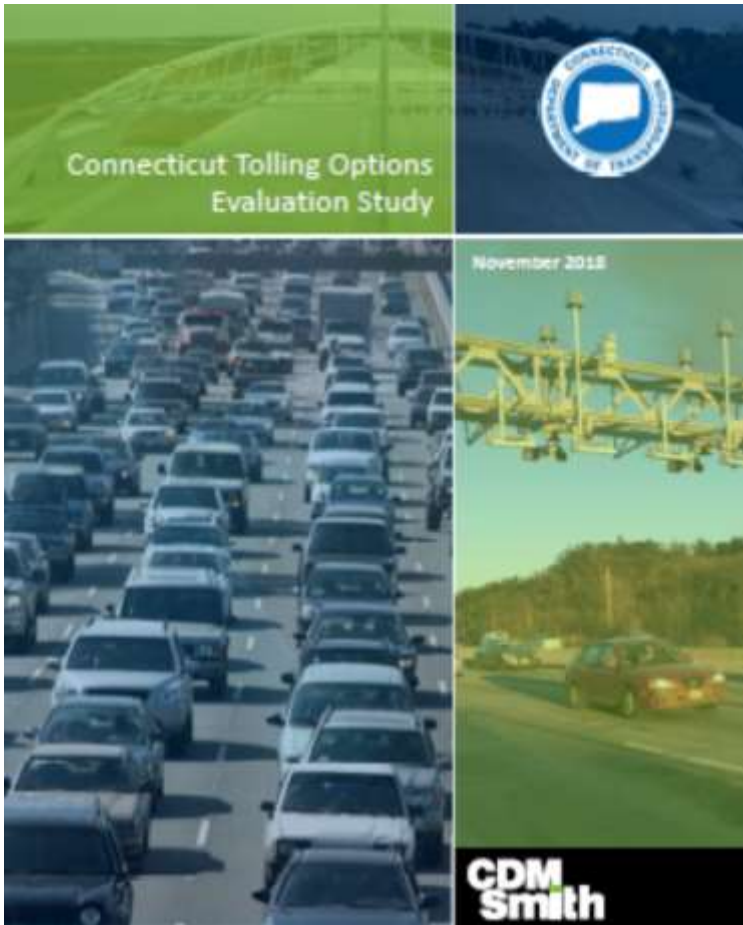
2018 Toll Study



Study Purpose & Approach

- Develop answers to key policy and implementation questions
- Evaluate a variety of tolling options for CT
- Select 1 option & develop a toll scenario
 - Not a recommended plan
 - Single representative toll scenario:

2018 Toll Study: Single Representative Scenario



Purpose & objectives of single scenario

- Reasonable baseline for discussion with Legislature
- Basic objectives:
 - Keep rates comparable to neighboring states
 - All neighboring states have tolls
 - Keep costs to CT drivers as low as possible
 - Offer discounts
 - Ensure that out-of-state drivers pay a fair share.
 - 30% of traffic on major interstates
 - Ensure that trucks pay their fair share
 - trucks do more damage to roads & bridges

Basic assumption for all scenarios: All-Electronic Tolling

No more toll booths

- transactions are cashless
- No traffic back-ups, no accidents



All-Electronic Toll (AET) collection

- Collection via E-ZPass or image of license plate
- Legislation must allow use of cameras & enforcement mechanisms

Coverage: Potential Highways to be Tolled



Toll System Coverage *in baseline scenario*

- Highways included
 - All Interstates
 - 4 non-Interstates
- Basis for coverage
 - Finance Panel recommendation
 - Fairness:
 - geographic equity
 - entire state covered
 - all regions contribute to state highway program

Toll Rates and Discounts

Tested numerous:

- Toll rate structures &
- Toll discount programs

Each evaluated to identify:

- Best scenario for discussion



Toll Rate Structure: Cars & Trucks

Toll Rate Classes

Class 1: Cars, motorcycles, pickups, small vans



(2.0 x Class 1) Class 2: Medium trucks



(4.0 x Class 1) Class 3: Heavy trucks



Toll Rate Structure: Multiple Categories

Cars	VS	Trucks	Higher rate for trucks	Heavy Trucks = 4.0 x Car Rate
EZPass	VS	Video	Higher rate for video users	Video = 1.5 x EZPass reflects higher collection cost
Off-Peak	VS	Peak Period	25% higher rate for peak period	25% higher rate is fixed Does not change dynamically
CT-EZPass¹	VS	Out-of-State	30% discount for CT-EZPass	CT-EZPass discount for cars & trucks
Frequent User¹ (Commuter)	VS	Infrequent User	20% discount for frequent user	Only for CT-EZPass

¹ Discounts reflect sensitivity to CT drivers who must regularly use toll facilities for commuting & daily activities

Toll rates assumed for scenario (truck rates = 4.0 x cars)

	Payment Category	Passenger Cars (class 1)		Heavy Trucks (class 3)	
		Off-Peak	Peak Period	Off-Peak	Peak Period
1	CT-EZPass <i>(30% discount)</i>	4.4 cents/mi	5.5 cents/mi	17.6 cents/mi	22.0 cents/mi
2	CT-EZPass: Freq. User <i>(20% discount)</i>	3.5 cents/mi	4.4 cents/mi	-----	-----
3	Out-of-State EZPass	6.3 cents/mi	7.9 cents/mi	25.2 cents/mi	31.6 cents/mi
4	Video Toll (registered)	7.9 cents/mi	9.9 cents/mi	31.6 cents/mi	39.6 cents/mi
5	Video Toll (not registered)	9.4 cents/mi	11.8 cents/mi	37.6 cents/mi	47.2 cents/mi

Peak rates **25%**
higher than off-peak

Truck rates =
4X cars

Comparison to Other States

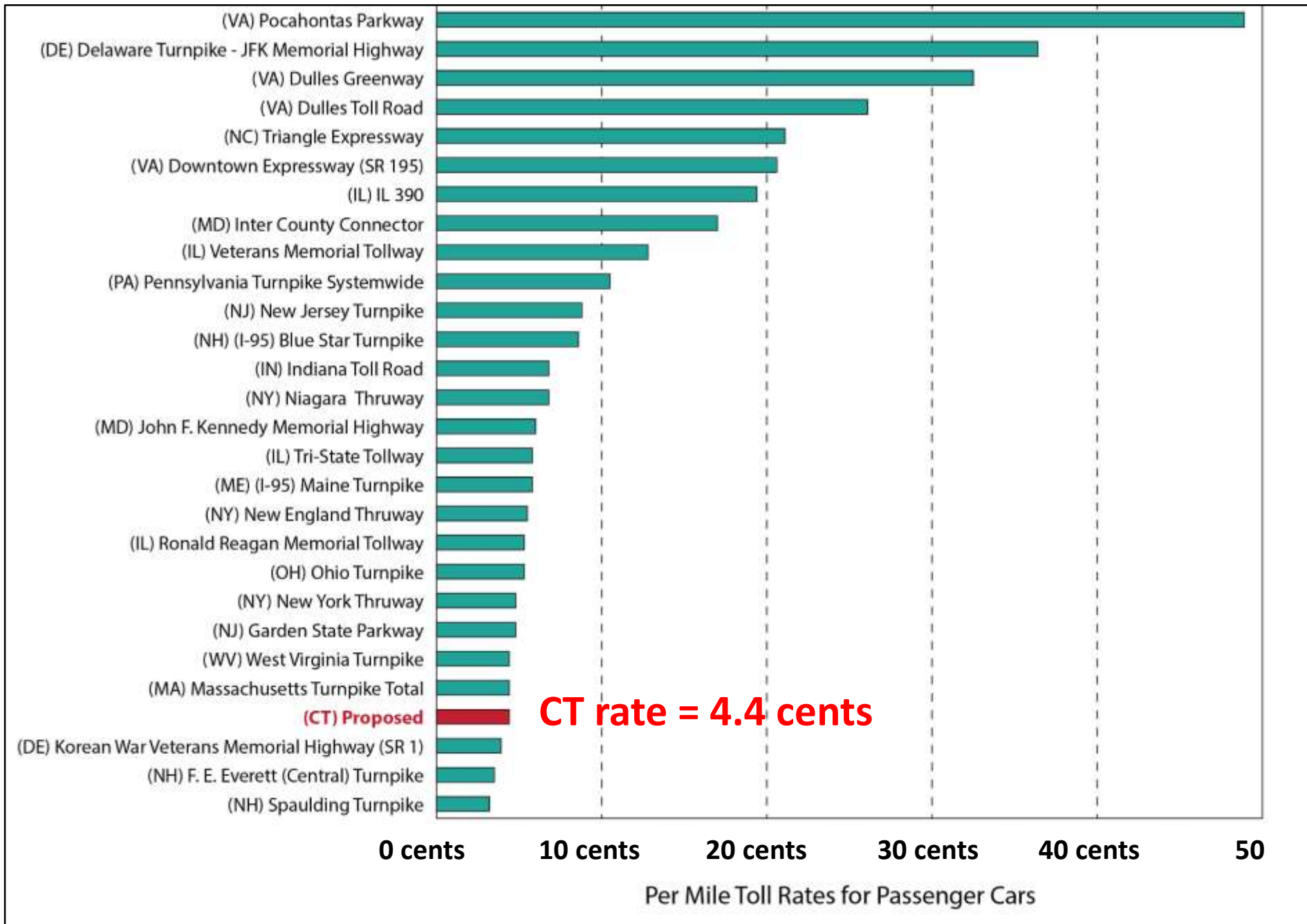
Compare Toll Rates by State

"Cents/Mile" Toll Rates: Passenger Vehicles

Payment Method	Mass TPKE	Maine TPKE	NH Cen. TPKE	Connecticut assumptions		New Jersey TPKE		PA TPKE
	All Day	All Day	All Day	Off Peak	Peak	Off Peak	Peak	All Day
Freq User State EZ Pass	4.4	2.9	3.5	3.5	4.4	8.8	11.4	10.5
In-State EZ Pass	4.4	5.8	3.5	4.4	5.5	8.8	11.4	10.5
Out-of-State EZ Pass	5.6	6.3	5.0	6.3	7.9	8.8	11.4	10.5
Video/Cash	8.5	6.3	5.0	9.5	11.8	11.7	11.4	15.2
Frequent User Discount	0%	50%	0%	20%	20%	0%	0%	0%

Maine, NH, New Jersey, and PA Turnpikes offer Cash payment options. Massachusetts is AET.

Maine offers a 50% frequent user discount for 40 or more trips/month (25% for 30-39 trips/month)



Toll Rates per mile

By state & highway
 In-state E-ZPass rate
 (off-peak or all day)

CT among lowest in northeast US

Toll rates & discounts yield: **Gross Revenues***

Gross Revenue Sources - 2023/opening year *(millions \$)*

	CT drivers	Out-of-State	Total
Cars	\$473 M	\$295 M	\$768 M
Trucks	\$172 M	\$146 M	\$318 M
Total	\$645 M	\$441 M	\$1,086 M

Out-of-State Vehicles
 Will pay **\$441 M**
 for using CT highways

41% of revenue
31% of traffic

Shares of Total Gross Revenue

	CT drivers	Out-of-State	Total
Cars	43.6%	27.2%	70.8%
Trucks	15.8%	13.4%	29.2%
Total	59.4%	40.6%	100.0%

*2023/opening year

Gantry Locations: Fairness vs Efficiency



Fairness:

- **No more than one location** per town (on a given route)
- **No tolls on bridges:** avoid economic barriers between towns
- **Minimize local traffic diversions:** a problem in cities
 - Avoid tolls in cities where frequent exits & city street grids can create traffic diversion problems

Efficiency:

optimize the balance between:

- **Number of gantries** (capital & operating costs)
- **Number of exits** (lost revenue)

CT's CHALLENGE: Too many exits

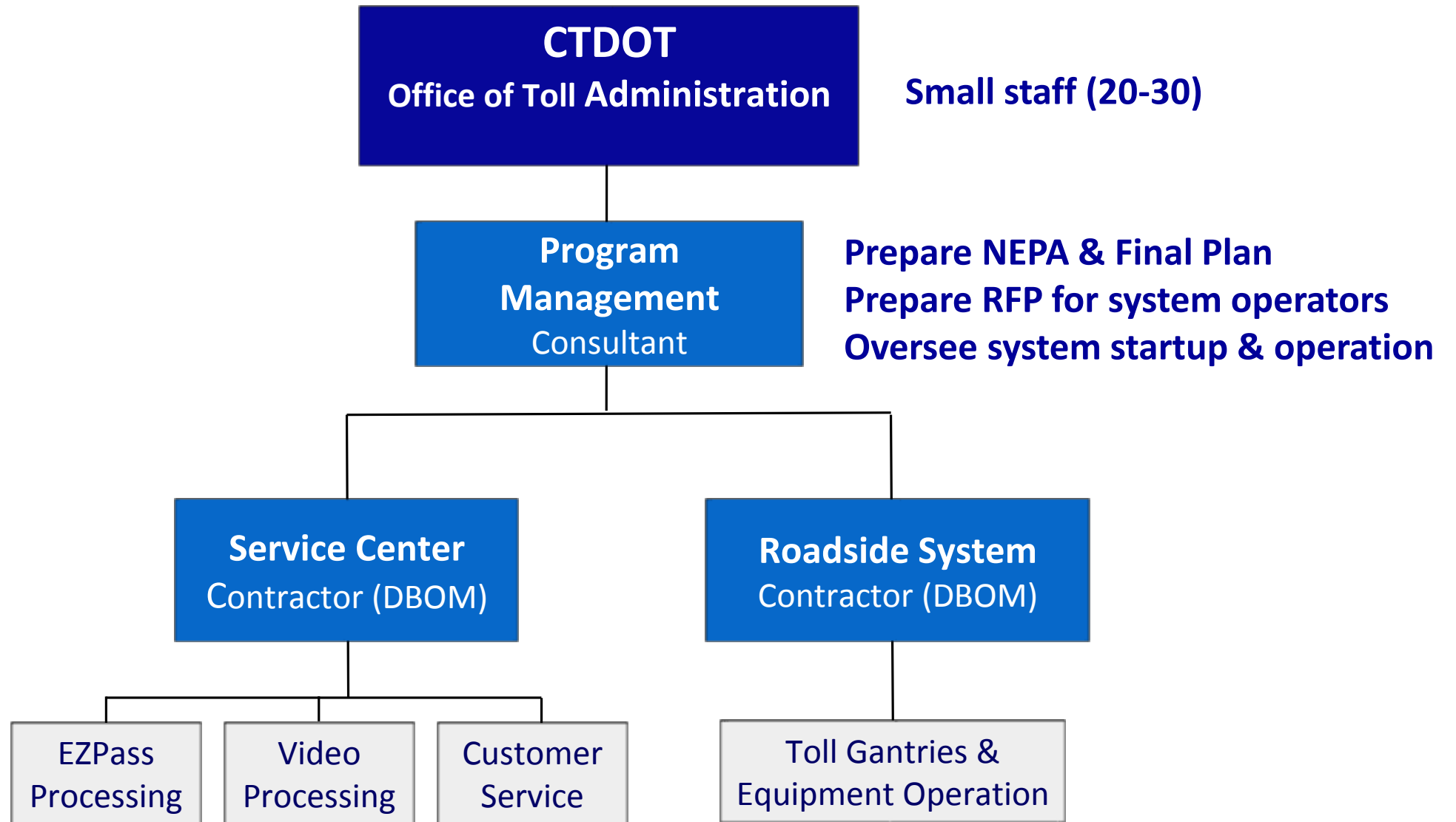


- Mass Pike: **130 miles & 21 exits**
 - **13 gantries**: 1 between each exit with 3 exceptions
 - Springfield, Worcester, Boston
- I-95 NY to New Haven: **47 miles & 47 exits**
 - Not practical or necessary for CT to put a gantry between each exit
 - Seek an **optimum balance** between too many gantries & too few
- Result: Baseline scenario : **6-mile spacing** on average

A photograph of a multi-lane highway with traffic, viewed from an elevated perspective. The road is divided into several lanes by white and yellow lines. In the background, a large steel truss bridge structure spans across the highway. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall image has a slightly faded, semi-transparent appearance, serving as a background for the text.

How to Organize and Manage a Toll System

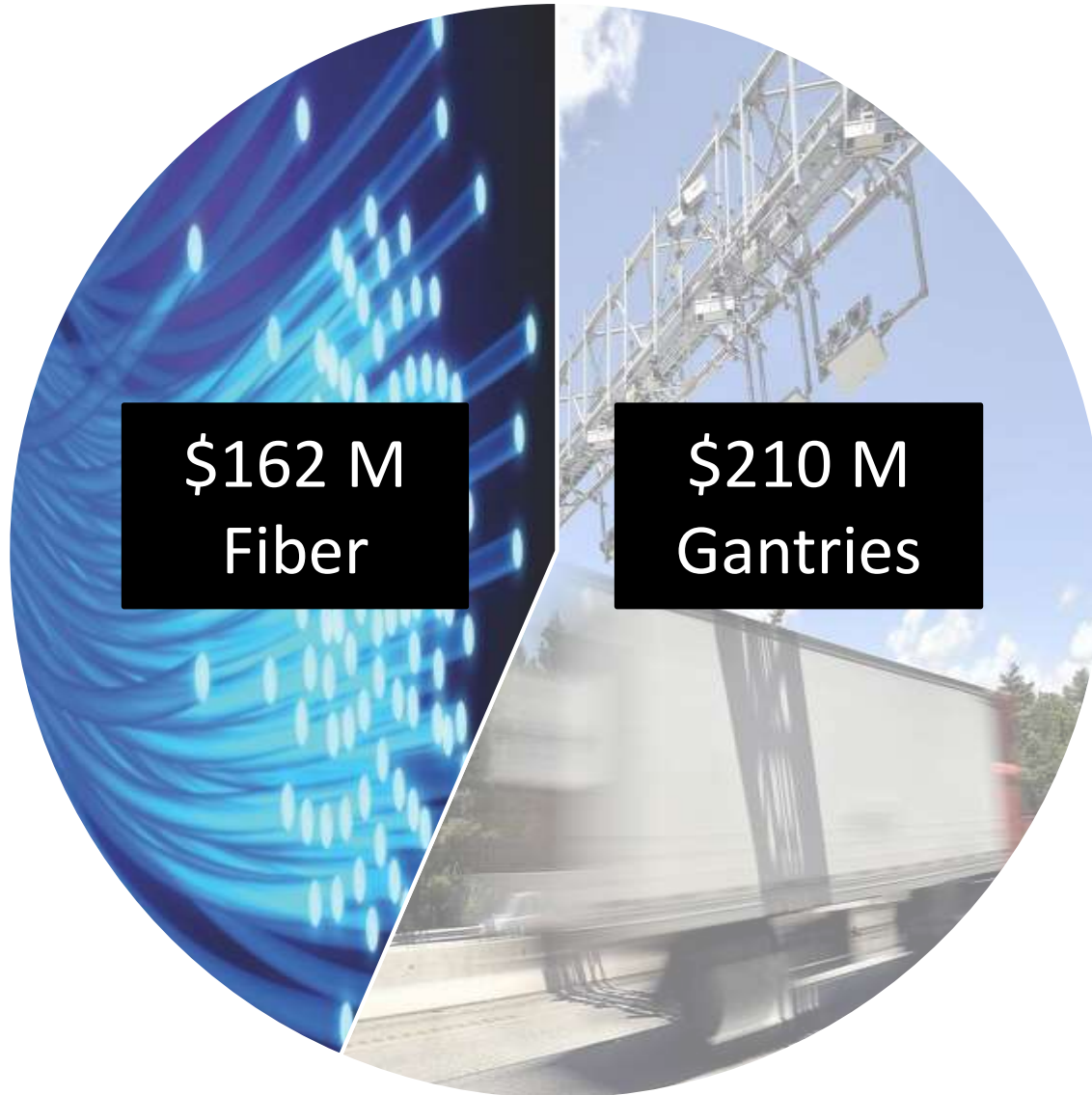
Organizational & Management Structure



Toll Costs and Net Revenues



Capital Cost Estimate



Roadside Systems

Total capital cost

\$ 372 million

Annualized capital cost*

\$ 38 million

* *Gantries annualized over 10 years, Fiber annualized over 20 years*

Operating Cost Estimate

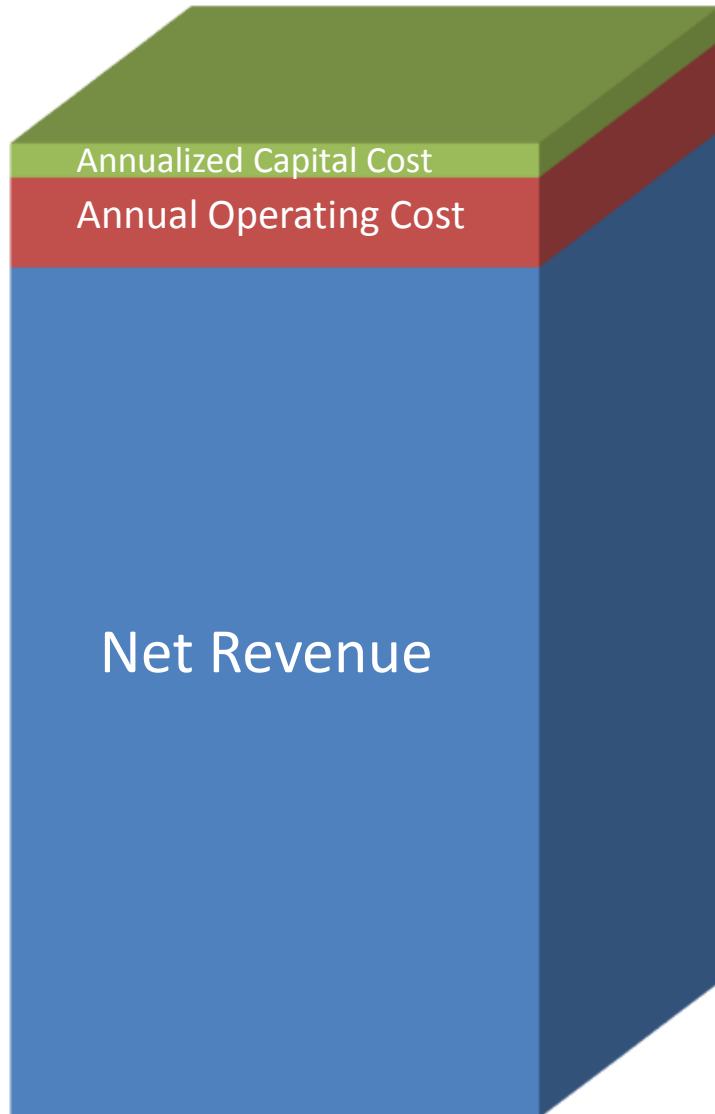


Annual Operating Cost
\$ 100 million

Service Center: staffing, equipment & building leasing

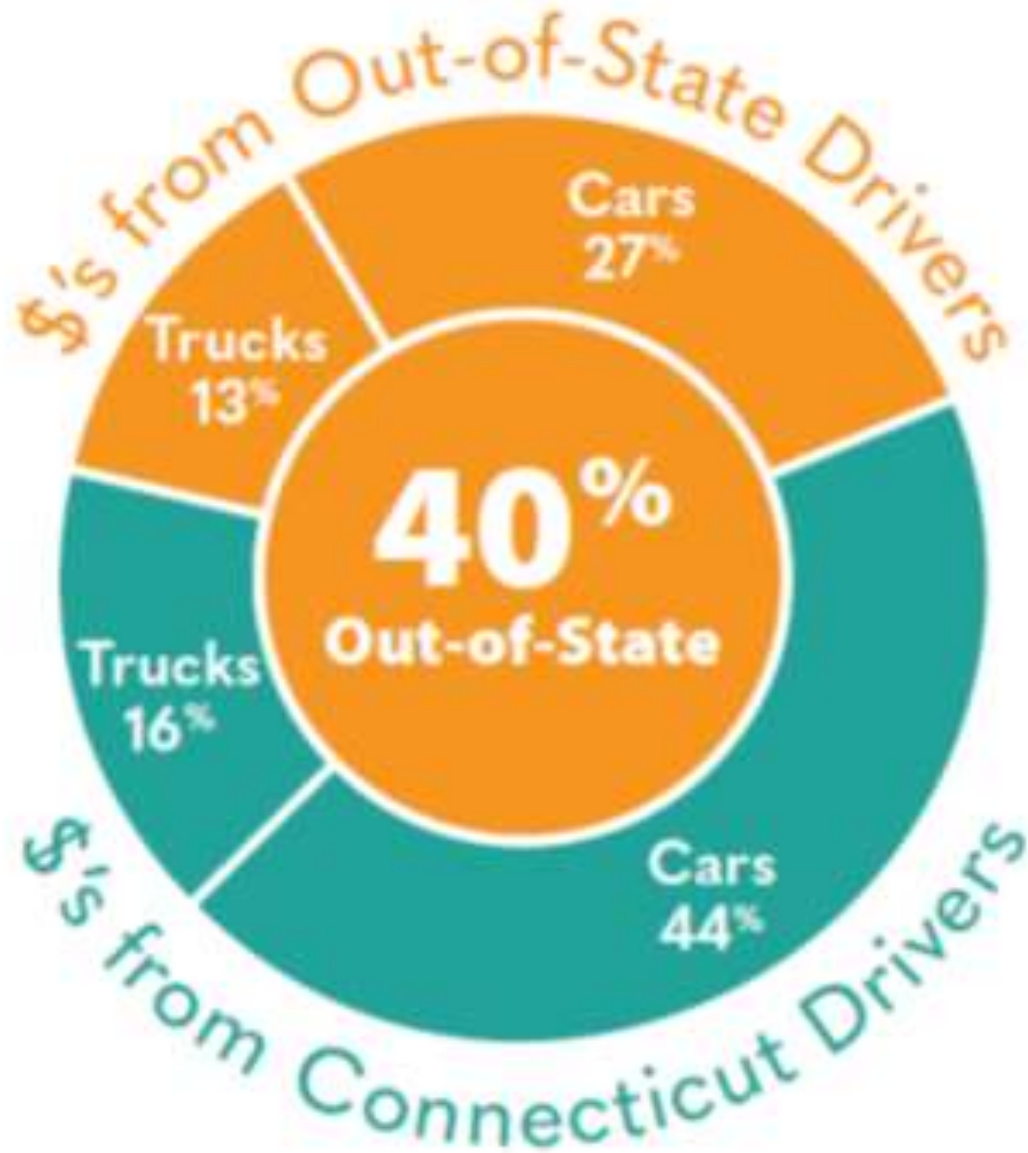
Roadside System: operating & maintenance

Annual Toll Revenue (Millions)



Gross Annual Revenue	\$1,086
Annualized Capital Cost	\$ (38)
<u>Annual Operating Cost</u>	<u>\$ (100)</u>
Net Annual Revenue	\$ 948

In-State & Out-of-State sources of toll revenue



CT trucks	\$ 150 M
CT cars	\$ 414 M
Out-of-State trucks	\$ 128 M
<u>Out-of-State cars</u>	<u>\$ 258 M</u>

Net Annual Revenue \$ 948 M

Lessons Learned

Favorable reactions:

- Huge revenue potential at low rates
- Drivers like 2 discount options
- Taxpayers like 40% out-of-state revenue share
- Taxpayers like lockbox

Unfavorable reactions

- Too many gantries
- Too many highways included
 - Fewer objections to I-95, I-84, I-91 (RT 15 must be included due to diversion)
 - These 4 generate over 70% of statewide revenue.
 - Also over 80% of out-of-state revenue
- Even at low toll rates, a “statewide” system can lead to higher annual cost to residents.
 - Other states have only 1-2 toll roads.





Next Steps

Adjusting to recent events

Next Steps: **Original Work Plan**

- **State Bond Commission** action (*Spring 2018*)
 - Approved \$10 Million for NEPA study & final statewide toll plan
- **RFQ** for **PMC** (toll consultant) was to be issued Nov – Dec.
Program Manager Consultant (PMC) scope of work
 - Prepare **NEPA**
 - Prepare **final plan**
 - Assist in getting **state & federal approvals**
 - AFTER approvals: **prepare RFPs** for
 - *Roadside collection system*
 - *Back Office system*

Next Steps: Recent Developments

- **Transportation Lockbox**
 - November ballot included referendum question on transportation lockbox
 - All transportation revenues must remain in State Transportation Fund
 - Must be spent on **transportation projects only**
 - Transportation revenues **cannot be diverted from STF**
 - **88%** of voters approved lockbox

Next Steps: Recent Developments

New Governor elected

- Governor Lamont **favors truck-only tolls** like RI's new tolls
- Already asked develop info on **truck-only tolling**.
- Are preparing for expected request to also develop a **truck-only proposal**.
 - Discussions with RIDOT: RI program is really a **“bridge” tolling** program that's **limited to trucks**
 - Discussions with FHWA
 - Expect more direction from Governor Lamont shortly

What next: Tolling likely to be a **major focus** in upcoming Legislative session.

Thank You

'Truck-Only' Tolling Fact Sheet

RI's "Truck Tolling" Program

- Based on federal tolling exemption for "Bridges"
 - **Bridge requirement:** Can toll any bridges or tunnels being reconstructed or replaced
 - **Timing:** Cannot start tolling until reconstruction starts
 - **Toll Rate:** based on cost to reconstruct
 - **Revenue restrictions:** used for specific bridge being reconstruction
 - **Once bridge paid off:** revenue can be used for any eligible Federal-Aid expense.
 - **Lawsuit:** Trucking industry challenging legality
- Net Revenues
 - **RI:** \$41 million at full build out (14 tolls)
 - **CT:** \$100 - \$200 million? (\$218M from trucks under full tolling scenario)
 - CT implementation: will be paced by schedule of bridge reconstruction program