



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

November 27, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

I. Authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to increase the rate of tolls at Hooksett, Bedford, and Hampton Mainlines by 50 cents for single rear tire vehicles (classes 1 – 4) and by \$1.00 for dual rear /super wide tire vehicles (classes 5 – 12) in accordance with RSA 237:9, RSA 237:24 and RSA 237:40. Also authorize the Commissioner to increase the rates of tolls at Hooksett Ramp, Hampton Side, Dover and Rochester plazas by \$0.25 cents for single rear tire vehicles (classes 1 – 4) and by \$0.50 for dual rear /super wide tire vehicles (classes 5 – 12. These changes in the rate of tolls will be effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2018. Also authorize the Commissioner to eliminate the toll rate at Exit 10 and 11 Toll Plazas in Merrimack effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020, which reflects the date of the final payment on the bonds used to finance the Merrimack Exit 10 and Exit 11 construction.

II. Authorize the Commissioner to clarify the toll classification description of a truck or commercial vehicle, which is presently described as a “dual rear tire” vehicle, to the new truck classification description of “dual rear/super wide tire (DT/SW)” vehicle, effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2018.

EXPLANATION

I. Based on comments received during the state’s Ten Year Plan (TYP) process and at the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) public hearings that were held in September and October across the state, where the need to advance turnpike major projects, extend the turnpike system, mitigate for highway noise impacts, enhance turnpike revenue and provide for alternative mode choices was evident, a proposal for the acceleration and expansion of the turnpike capital program was developed. It was recommended by GACIT to put forth a proposed toll increase for Governor & Council consideration. If approved, this additional revenue would be available for the turnpike capital program and allocated to projects through the TYP.

The new toll rate structure represents an approximate 27% increase in toll revenue and will generate an estimated \$36 million in additional toll revenue per year. All of the increased revenue will be directed towards capital projects on the Turnpike system. The toll increase will be paid by the users of the system who will also benefit from any capital improvements with an estimated \$20 million of the toll increase paid by out-of-state users of the system.

Following approval of this action, GACIT will transmit a draft TYP document to the Governor (reflecting the above increase in revenue) for the Governor and Legislature to consider and enact into law as part of the final TYP document and legislation.

It is the intent of GACIT to use this additional revenue to advance the construction of the turnpike major projects, fund a noise mitigation program, fund a travel demand management program, eliminate tolls at Exits 10 and 11 in Merrimack, implement a frequent user program for commuters, implement all electronic tolling

where financially feasible, and extend the turnpike system to encompass and complete the Bow-Concord I-93 widening project with turnpike revenue, which will free up future federal funding for other transportation needs across the state.

The following is the list of major Turnpike Capital Projects that could be accelerated, as well as new additional projects/programs that could be added to the capital program as a result of the toll increase. The estimated total capital investment on the Turnpike system over the upcoming Ten Year Plan (2019 – 2028) period could exceed \$750 million.

- Construction Dover End & GSB Rehabilitation (\$79M): **2019 - 2022**
- Construction of FEET Widening , Nashua-Bedford (\$122M): **2020 – 2023 (completed 3 yrs sooner)**
- Manchester Exit 7 Reconstruction (\$49M): **2021 – 2023 (completed 3 yrs sooner)**
- Manchester Exit 6 Improvements & FEET Widening (\$90M): **2023 – 2025 (completed 4 yrs sooner)**
- *Bow-Concord: I-93 Widening (I-89 to I-393) (\$261M): **2022 – 2027 (completed 6 yrs sooner)**
- Dover-Rochester-Somersworth Exit 10 Feasibility Study (\$2M): **2020 (advanced 2 years)**
- **Dover & Rochester AET mainline plazas (\$12M): **2020-2023 (advanced 1 year)**
- **Bedford AET mainline plaza (\$7.3M): **2020-2023**
- Type II Soundwall Program (\$4M/year, total \$36M): **2020-2028 (new program)**
- Hampton ORT expansion to 6 lanes (\$7.3M): **2021 (new project)**
- **Hooksett Ramp AET project (\$2M): **2020 (new project)**
- Merrimack Exit 10 & Exit 11 Toll Removal (\$1.2M): **2021 (new project)**
- Manchester I-293 Widening Feasibility Study (\$2.0M): **2021 (new project)**
- Portsmouth I-95 HL Bridge Widening Feasibility Study (\$2.0M): **2021 (new project)**
- Dover Spaulding Turnpike Exit 6 to 9 Feasibility Study (\$2.0M): **2021 (new project)**
- Concord I-93 Merrimack River Bridges Rehabilitation (\$32M): **2027-2028 (new project)**
- Transportation Demand Management (\$3M/year, total \$27M): **2020-2028 (new program)**

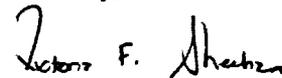
***Legislative authorization (similar to authorization for the I-95 extension completed in 2009) is needed to extend the Turnpike from Exit 14 to the southern end of the I-93 Merrimack River Bridge to encompass and complete the Bow-Concord project.**

****Legislative authorization required to install All Electronic Tolling (AET) plaza.**

II. The Department is requesting to clarify the toll classification description of a truck or commercial vehicle, which is presently described as a “dual rear tire” vehicle. The requested new truck classification description is “dual rear/super wide tire (DT/SW)” vehicle. The Department has seen over the years, more and more tractor trailers outfitting their vehicles with single wide tires instead of dual rear tires and this clarification will ensure the correct commercial toll is collected for both E-ZPass and cash customers.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

VFS/jwc/cmw
Attachments

NEW HAMPSHIRE TURNPIKE SYSTEM
TOLL RATE SCHEDULE
EXHIBIT A

HOOKSETT & BEDFORD MAINLINES
\$0.50 INCREASE, SINGLE REAR TIRE CLASSES 1-4
\$1.00 INCREASE, DUAL REAR/SUPER WIDE TIRE CLASSES 5-12

Class	Description	Number of Axles	Full Toll Current Rate	Full Toll Proposed Rate
1	2 axles - single rear tires	2	\$1.00	\$1.50
2	3 axles - single rear tires	3	\$1.25	\$1.75
3	4 axles - single rear tires	4	\$1.50	\$2.00
4	5 axles - single rear tires	5	\$1.75	\$2.25
5	2 axles - dual rear tires	2	\$2.00	\$3.00
6	3 axles - dual rear tires	3	\$2.50	\$3.50
7	4 axles - dual rear tires	4	\$3.00	\$4.00
8	5 axles - dual rear tires	5	\$3.50	\$4.50
9	6 axles - dual rear tires	6	\$4.00	\$5.00
10	7 axles - dual rear tires	7	\$4.50	\$5.50
11	8 axles - dual rear tires	8	\$5.00	\$6.00
12	9 axles - dual rear tires	9	\$5.50	\$6.50

HAMPTON MAINLINE
\$0.50 INCREASE, SINGLE REAR TIRE CLASSES 1-4
\$1.00 INCREASE, DUAL REAR/SUPER WIDE TIRE CLASSES 5-12

Class	Description	Number of Axles	Full Toll Current Rate	Full Toll Proposed Rate
1	2 axles - single rear tires	2	\$2.00	\$2.50
2	3 axles - single rear tires	3	\$2.25	\$2.75
3	4 axles - single rear tires	4	\$2.50	\$3.00
4	5 axles - single rear tires	5	\$2.75	\$3.25
5	2 axles - dual rear tires	2	\$4.00	\$5.00
6	3 axles - dual rear tires	3	\$4.50	\$5.50
7	4 axles - dual rear tires	4	\$5.00	\$6.00
8	5 axles - dual rear tires	5	\$5.50	\$6.50
9	6 axles - dual rear tires	6	\$6.00	\$7.00
10	7 axles - dual rear tires	7	\$6.50	\$7.50
11	8 axles - dual rear tires	8	\$7.00	\$8.00
12	9 axles - dual rear tires	9	\$7.50	\$8.50

DOVER & ROCHESTER MAINLINES
 \$0.25 INCREASE, SINGLE REAR TIRE CLASSES 1-4
 \$0.50 INCREASE, DUAL REAR/SUPER WIDE TIRE CLASSES 5-12

Class	Description	Number of Axles	Full Toll Current Rate	Full Toll Proposed Rate
1	2 axles - single rear tires	2	\$0.75	\$1.00
2	3 axles - single rear tires	3	\$1.00	\$1.25
3	4 axles - single rear tires	4	\$1.25	\$1.50
4	5 axles - single rear tires	5	\$1.50	\$1.75
5	2 axles - dual rear tires	2	\$1.50	\$2.00
6	3 axles - dual rear tires	3	\$2.00	\$2.50
7	4 axles - dual rear tires	4	\$2.50	\$3.00
8	5 axles - dual rear tires	5	\$3.00	\$3.50
9	6 axles - dual rear tires	6	\$3.50	\$4.00
10	7 axles - dual rear tires	7	\$4.00	\$4.50
11	8 axles - dual rear tires	8	\$4.50	\$5.00
12	9 axles - dual rear tires	9	\$5.00	\$5.50

HAMPTON SIDE
 \$0.25 INCREASE, SINGLE REAR TIRE CLASSES 1-4
 \$0.50 INCREASE, DUAL REAR/SUPER WIDE TIRE CLASSES 5-12

Class	Description	Number of Axles	Full Toll Current Rate	Full Toll Proposed Rate
1	2 axles - single rear tires	2	\$0.75	\$1.00
2	3 axles - single rear tires	3	\$1.00	\$1.25
3	4 axles - single rear tires	4	\$1.25	\$1.50
4	5 axles - single rear tires	5	\$1.50	\$1.75
5	2 axles - dual rear tires	2	\$1.50	\$2.00
6	3 axles - dual rear tires	3	\$2.00	\$2.50
7	4 axles - dual rear tires	4	\$2.50	\$3.00
8	5 axles - dual rear tires	5	\$3.00	\$3.50
9	6 axles - dual rear tires	6	\$3.50	\$4.00
10	7 axles - dual rear tires	7	\$4.00	\$4.50
11	8 axles - dual rear tires	8	\$4.50	\$5.00
12	9 axles - dual rear tires	9	\$5.00	\$5.50

HOOKSETT RAMP
 \$0.25 INCREASE, SINGLE REAR TIRE CLASSES 1-4
 \$0.50 INCREASE, DUAL REAR/SUPER WIDE TIRE CLASSES 5-12

Class	Description	Number of Axles	Full Toll Current Rate	Full Toll Proposed Rate
1	2 axles - single rear tires	2	\$0.50	\$0.75
2	3 axles - single rear tires	3	\$0.75	\$1.00
3	4 axles - single rear tires	4	\$1.00	\$1.25
4	5 axles - single rear tires	5	\$1.25	\$1.50
5	2 axles - dual rear tires	2	\$1.00	\$1.50
6	3 axles - dual rear tires	3	\$1.50	\$2.00
7	4 axles - dual rear tires	4	\$2.00	\$2.50
8	5 axles - dual rear tires	5	\$2.50	\$3.00
9	6 axles - dual rear tires	6	\$3.00	\$3.50
10	7 axles - dual rear tires	7	\$3.50	\$4.00
11	8 axles - dual rear tires	8	\$4.00	\$4.50
12	9 axles - dual rear tires	9	\$4.50	\$5.00

Note: Discounts offered to NH E-ZPass account holders:

1. Classes 1-4: 30% of full fare
2. Classes 5-12: 10% of full fare