



State of Connecticut

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SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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January 10, 2020

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of the Governor
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Secretary Melissa McCaw
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont and Secretary McCaw:

I am writing to obtain more information about significant changes to your latest toll plan referenced by Democrat legislative leaders this week.

Your initial truck-only toll proposal includes tolls on truck classes 4-13, which includes tolls on buses, firetrucks, RVs and many more vehicles. However, on January 7, 2019, House Democrat leaders told the press that many of those classes are being removed. First, we were told classes 4 and 5 would be removed. Later in the day, we heard from press that classes 6 and 7 would also not be tolled.

These changes would mean far fewer vehicles will be tolled under your plan. Simple math tells us that projected truck toll revenue must be significantly lower now, unless toll rates are going to be increased significantly. Therefore, I would like to request the following information:

- 1) A new pro forma on your revised truck toll plan, including a breakdown of revenue projections by toll and bridge location.
- 2) A new list of specific construction projects and infrastructure improvement projects your revised plan will pay for. If you are shrinking spending in your plan by limiting the number of trucks, that must have an impact on your project list.
- 3) Projections for the percentage of in state v. out of state trucks broken down by toll location.
- 4) Copies of any CDM Smith analysis or analysis by any other entity supporting these estimates, including projections for how toll avoidance and leakage impacts that revenue. As you know, CDM Smith views toll avoidance as a major principle of tolling that must be calculated and included in projections.

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Beyond the changes we learned about from the press this week, I still have questions about other elements of your proposal and therefore am also seeking the following:

- 1) Copies of any and all letters, emails or communication from New York officials and lawmakers sent to your offices regarding the proposed I-684 toll.
- 2) An explanation of how a proposed "Transportation Oversight Board" will operate. It is my understanding that this board is included in your proposal and will have powers in setting toll rates similar to the powers PURA has in setting energy rates. Can you confirm what those powers will be?
- 3) Finally, I would ask that the Senate Republican caucus have the same privilege extended to the majority party in accessing information about this plan from your office. I wrote to you on December 13, 2019 seeking information and never heard back from you. This week, Democrats had enough information to caucus and provide a presentation of your plan to their members. I would like copies of all information related to this proposal that has been shared with Democrats including:
 - a. Draft legislation
 - b. Bullet points or talking points
 - c. Summary documents
 - d. Presentation materials
 - e. And any other information shared with Democrats and/or used for their caucus presentations this week.

Our hardworking and thoughtful caucus members represent hundreds of thousands of residents and taxpayers across the state of Connecticut. I respectfully ask for all this information to be shared with Republicans immediately. You have indicated that you expect a vote on your plan this month. I know you want all lawmakers to make an informed decision when voting on this proposal, and therefore we need all this information immediately to properly review prior to a public hearing and potential vote.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader

cc: Ryan Drajewicz, Chief of Staff