



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1008

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Speaker DiMasi Statement on Proposed Toll Increases and Gas Tax

BOSTON – House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi today released the following statement on proposed toll increases on the Massachusetts Turnpike, bridges and tunnels and proposals to increase the gasoline tax.

“Six months ago, I first suggested the Commonwealth consider increasing the gasoline tax to help offset future toll increases or to possibly allow the removal of tolls on parts of the Massachusetts Turnpike, bridges and tunnels which unfairly place the burden of the Big Dig on the people who live west and north of Boston.

“Given the excessive proposal now on the table for doubling some tolls, one that will cost drivers in certain areas hundreds of dollars more each year just to get to work, I believe we must seriously consider alternatives like a gas tax increase. The fact is, the Massachusetts gas tax is below the national average and, while we would all prefer not to burden drivers with any new cost in difficult times, I believe the gas tax is a fairer way to share our costs and it should be fully considered before any tolls are increased.

“I also urge transportation officials to put forward proposals that will help cut costs such as high-speed tolling programs and will urge the Legislature to move quickly in January on comprehensive, long-term solutions to make our transportation bureaucracy far more efficient.”

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