

Provide Greater Certainty and More Opportunities for Tolling and Private Sector Participation

What's Best for Michigan

Establish federal policies regarding tolling and road pricing that provide states with maximum flexibility for toll financing of transportation projects.

Promote and encourage private sector participation in infrastructure projects to expand financing options and accelerate project delivery while ensuring that appropriate controls are in place to preserve the public interest. In addition, create incentives to increase state, local, and private investment levels in public transportation.

Why

The documented needs of the transportation system far surpass revenue currently available, and revenue likely to be available in the foreseeable future. Providing those states that wish to make greater use of toll financing more opportunities to do so will help fill a small portion of the gap between revenues and system needs.

There are currently four different tolling or pricing programs authorized by federal law that are either pilot or demonstration programs with limited access to slots within each program. Project development takes time and states need more certainty than these pilot programs offer in order to more effectively plan projects and programs.

Advances in toll collection technology have laid to rest many of the issues and concerns related to mobility and safety surrounding toll collection gantries.

Tolling, and particularly road pricing, has proven to be a viable mechanism for sending market signals to road users, which can lead to less congestion on priced facilities. In areas where viable modal choice exists, environmental benefits may result as well.

Greater opportunities for private sector involvement in project financing, development, construction and operations can provide many benefits beyond simply supplying capital for financing. Public Private Partnerships (P3s) can also benefit states and ultimately travelers by improving life-cycle investing, providing incentives for more efficient operations and maintenance, and transferring risk to the private sector.