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## Staff Recommended Changes to All Electronic Tolling (AET) Gantry Rates

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### Public Feedback

- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the MassDOT Board will vote to finalize the new gantry rate structure, which goes into effect on October 28<sup>th</sup> when All Electronic Tolling goes live. MassDOT received 95 in-person comments and 36 email comments in response to the initial rate proposal. After careful review of the comments received over seven public hearings, MassDOT is recommending that the MassDOT Board adopt two changes to the original rate structure.
- MassDOT has prepared this document to summarize the suggested changes, which are contingent on Board approval.

### Staff Recommended Changes to Rate Structure

#### 1. Lower Rate at Weston Gantry (Toll Zone 10) by \$0.20

- MassDOT staff is recommending a \$0.20 reduction at the Weston Gantry (from \$0.45 to \$0.25) that would reduce the cost for drivers, especially those traveling the Pike eastbound and exiting at I-95.
  - a. This would reduce the rates for drivers, especially those in MetroWest driving to I-95, which were trips highlighted in public comment.
  - b. The likelihood of diversion onto local roads, especially Route 9 and Route 20, is reduced by adopting the Staff Recommendation.

#### 2. Redistribute Cost Between Metropolitan Highway System (MHS) Gantries

- MassDOT is recommending an alternative rate structure that would maintain the overall cost of \$1.70 on the MHS, but redistributes the rates between the gantries.
  - a. This would reduce the increase for the Newton Corner to Boston trip, which was highlighted in public comment. Under the original proposal this trip increased by \$0.50 (from \$1.00 to \$1.50), and under the recommendation it would cost \$1.35.
  - b. Several comments were made about traffic diversion in Newton, and this Staff Recommendation reduces the incentive for drivers to cut through local Newton roads to avoid tolls.

### Pay By Plate “Grace Period”

- MassDOT also heard at the August Board meeting and in public hearings a desire for a grace period for drivers to obtain transponders. Based on this feedback, MassDOT will be implementing an incentive discount program for Pay By Plate customers.
- After receiving a Pay By Plate bill, if a customer opens an E-ZPassMA account and pays their invoice in full, they will receive an automatic credit on their new E-ZPassMA account equal to the difference between the Pay By Plate rate and E-ZPassMA rate. For the first 6 months, this program will be offered on any Pay By Plate bill a customer receives, and then after 6 months, on the first Pay By Plate bill a new customer receives.