



Advancing Mobility Worldwide

## May 19, 2015, News Briefs

May 18, 2015  
By Peter Shelly



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## NY Thruway, with State Help, Adopts Budget Without Toll

## Hike

[\*The Journal News\*](#) (Westchester County) reports that, "Aided by a \$1.3 billion state bailout, the state Thruway Authority [May 18] approved a [revised] 2015 budget that includes no toll increase and directs \$909 million to fund the ongoing construction of a new Tappan Zee Bridge." The article also quotes Robert Megna, the authority's new executive director, as saying, "After a relatively short amount of time . . . we basically got the authority's books in order, and we will continue to work to do that in the future."

[\*Capital New York\*](#) also reports, focusing on the authority's allocation of "\$750 million in a one-time cash windfall to keep construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement going for another year, avoiding the need to issue for the ongoing, \$3.9 billion project in 2015."

## NY Thruway: No Debt This Year

[\*BloombergBusiness\*](#) reports that, "The New York Thruway Authority, flush with a \$1.3 billion cash infusion from Governor Andrew Cuomo's budget, wouldn't issue debt this year for the first time since at least 2011, according to a mid-year modification approved by its board on [May 18]."

## Illiana Project Included in Preliminary Budget, but Stays in Limbo

[\*The Times of Northwest Indiana\*](#) reports that, "A proposed \$8.4 billion Illinois highway plan unveiled last week includes \$118 million for preliminary work on the Illiana Expressway, but the 50-mile toll road project remains in limbo, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation." An IDOT spokesman describes the project's status as, "On pause and under review. No timeline as to when the review process will be complete."

## Study Will Explore Adding More San Antonio Express Lanes

[\*KSAT-TV News\*](#) (San Antonio) reports that, "The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on Monday approved the conducting of an approximately \$300,000 study that would examine adding more managed toll lanes to Bexar County highways. More than a half-dozen managed lane projects are already slated for construction, but the study would provide essential data needed to decide whether more managed lanes are needed."

## Drivers Winning in Transurban Unpaid Toll Cases

[WTOP-FM News](#) reports that, "Six drivers saw their unpaid-toll cases dismissed in Fairfax County General District Court on [May 18], while the final ruling on another landmark case has been delayed due to a last-minute motion." The report adds that Transurban has fixed a "corporate name problem" that has been raised in the suits.

[WUSA9-TV News](#) reports that, "Transurban, the operator of the Virginia Express lanes, was back in court on [May 18], attempting to have some of its lawsuits reopened" on the basis of the company name registration correction.

## FL Group Fights "Tollation," Tolling without Representation

[WPLG-TV News](#) (Miami) reports that [RollBackTolls.com](#) a self-styled "grassroots watchdog group for toll roads in South Florida," is protesting the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) toll increases that took effect in 2014. The group's members challenge both the amount of the increases and the equity of the new tolling system MDX adopted. The group's motto, by the way, is "Fighting To End Tollation; tolling without representation."

## Opposition to I-77 HOT Plan Grows, but Charlotte Remains Quiet

[The Charlotte Observer](#) reports that, "The Mooresville Board of Commissioners voted Monday night [May 18] to ask the state Department of Transportation to delay signing off on the financial close that would let construction of toll lanes begin on Interstate 77 from Charlotte to Mooresville."

[WFAE-FM News](#) (Charlotte) reports that, "While there has been a growing furor over the noncompete clause in the state's contract to build toll lanes on Interstate 77, the city of Charlotte has stayed on the sidelines and hasn't criticized the project."

## NJ Lawmakers Look to Rest Stops for More Money

[The Record](#) (Bergen County) reports that, "Looking for new ways to raise money, the Senate passed a bill Monday [May 18] that would order a close look at how New Jersey

can get the most out of rest stops and the travelers passing through them. The bill [A801] . . . would direct the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and South Jersey Turnpike 'study and prepare reports' to the governor and the Legislature 'concerning potential revenue raising opportunities' at the service plazas and rest areas on the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and Atlantic City Expressway."

## OH Lottery Looks to Turnpike Travelers for More Sales

[Cleveland.com](#) reports that, "The [Ohio Lottery](#) plans to increase sales by focusing on a captive audience -- [Ohio Turnpike](#) travelers who stop at service plazas for gas, food and restrooms. The lottery commission will expand its presence by adding vending machines in prime locations inside [the 14 plazas](#)."

## Editorial Board Hammers Tolls on ERC Tunnels

[The Virginian-Pilot](#) (Norfolk) editorial board jumps all over the recently released study of the impact of Elizabeth River Crossing tolls, reporting that, "Tolls at the Downtown and Midtown tunnels are hampering business and stifling economic recovery in Portsmouth. In other words, they're doing precisely what opponents warned they would." The editors add that, "Even as the rest of the region shows signs of pulling out of a yearslong economic malaise, the force that the tolls exact on Portsmouth serve to smother the city's hope of generating more business and drawing more visitors."

## Editors Plug Bridge Toll Enforcement Law

[The Journal Gazette](#) (Ft. Wayne, IN) editorial board warns readers, "A [new state law](#) will make it possible for a California-based company to mail you a bill if you cross the company's East Chicago bridge without an E-Z Pass." [Link added.] The editors add, "Don't think about ignoring the bill -- the state's new law also requires the BMV to suspend the license plates of motorists who don't pay their tolls."

## OHL Mexico Shares Fall after Government Official Resigns

[BloombergBusiness](#) reports that, "OHL Mexico SAB fell after a state-government official resigned amid a probe into recordings in which he purportedly discussed the toll road operator's offer to pay for his Christmas-week hotel stay at a Caribbean beach resort. The stock slid 1.2 percent to 24.64 pesos [US \$1.63] in Mexico City trading, the most on the

benchmark IPC stock index. The shares have dropped 20 percent this month." Spain's wire service, EFE, carries reports of an [inquiry](#) by Mexican securities regulators and opposition senators' [demand for a full investigation](#) of OHL's relationship with government officials.

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Tuesday, June 9

#### [2016 IBTTA Conferences Planning Meeting](#)

Friday, July 10

#### [IBTTA Summit on AET, Managed Lanes & Interoperability](#)

Sunday, July 12

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