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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Ins and outs of toll revenues

IN HIS Aug. 21 op-ed "The toll of neglect," Charles D. Chieppo illustrated the challenges the Commonwealth faces regarding the maintenance of infrastructure assets, and he outlined several important revenue-generating strategies, such as increasing the gas tax and open-road tolling. The Commonwealth needs to implement a complementary package of sound fiscal policies and practices that address the \$15 billion to \$19 billion gap in infrastructure investment identified by the Transportation Finance Commission.

However, Chieppo also writes of "turnpike drivers shouldering a disproportionate share of the burden of paying for the Big Dig." In fact, only turnpike tolls collected within Route 128, referred to as the Metropolitan Highway System, are allocated to Central Artery/Tunnel expenses, with a portion of that revenue used to repay Big Dig debt. This particular toll revenue is also allocated to other elements of the Metropolitan Highway System, such as the Callahan and Sumner tunnels, the Central Artery North Area tunnels and the Allston turnpike extension. So, in fact, a toll dollar collected within this area is stretched well beyond the Big Dig.

Increasing tolls along the entire turnpike alignment is necessary for operations and maintenance of the metropolitan system and western turnpike. The sched-

uled January toll increases are the only immediately viable option for the Turnpike Authority to meet its fiduciary bond obligations.

RICHARD A. DIMINO
PRESIDENT AND CEO
A BETTER CITY
Boston

A Better City was formerly called the Artery Business Committee.

MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD charge tolls to go over the Bourne Bridge. That would help pay for the recent work on the roadways in that area. People have to pay to go to work every day on the Mass. Pike and Tobin Bridge, so why shouldn't people going on vacation pay also? Motorists pay to go to New Hampshire and Maine, and people put up with the long toll waits. Let's spread out the burden.

LANA SCULLY
Bradford

Letters should be written exclusively to the Globe and include name, address, and daytime number. They should be 200 words or fewer; all are subject to editing. Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205-5819; letter@globe.com; fax: 617-929-2098. For a week's worth of letters, go to boston.com/opinion/letters.