

Cont - Tobin Bridge

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) manages the Tobin Bridge. This bridge is the largest in New England, connecting downtown Boston with Route 1, Interstate 95, and the North Shore. It extends across the Mystic River from Charlestown to Chelsea. An estimated 22.6 million commuters, truckers, residents and tourists cross the bridge each year.

In Fiscal Year 1992, the Tobin Bridge generated more than \$16.8 million in tolls. It is the tenth busiest toll bridge in the nation, with the lowest tolls of those toll bridges.

Ongoing projects:

- 10-year project of redecking and repainting
- Automatic toll system on the Tobin Bridge

A 90-day automated and computerized toll system test began in February 1993. With this system, a scanner reads a pass card which is mounted inside a vehicle windshield, and deducts the toll from a prepaid account, allowing the driver to pass through without stopping. This process is referred to as "automatic vehicle identification" or AVI.

Alden Raine, Executive Director of Massport, said that the automatic collection system will be put into operation on the Tobin Bridge this year if the test is considered successful.

This technology is especially important because it helps to eliminate traffic congestion at toll booths, reducing exhaust emissions.

Purchasing information:

The operation and maintenance of the Tobin Bridge required purchasing goods and services valued at \$6 million in FY92. Among those goods and services were materials and supplies, utilities, repairs, construction and equipment.

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