



ALLIANCE FOR
TOLL-FREE INTERSTATES

OHIO TURNPIKE

Tolls are often easily evaded, usually by motorists using alternative, less safe routes that were not built to handle the level and type of traffic experienced due to toll evasion. This was most clearly illustrated by the exodus of traffic from the Ohio Turnpike when toll rates on that highway were increased by 82% in the 1990s. When the Ohio Turnpike increased its truck toll rate to 17.6 cents/mile for 5-axle trucks, the result was massive diversion to alternate routes. The Ohio Department of Transportation found that a decade after the increase, growth in truck traffic on the turnpike was static, while truck traffic on parallel roads tripled. ODOT determined that these parallel routes had much higher crash rates. For example, U.S. 20, which saw a 267 % increase in truck traffic, had a fatal crash rate that was 17 times higher than the Turnpike's rate.

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