ATTACHMENT M

July 26, 2018

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning to you for amendment Section 104 of House Bill No. 4800, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2019 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 104 requires MassDOT to design and implement a pilot program to test the feasibility of offering discounted toll rates during off-peak travel times, with the goal of relieving congestion for motorists.

While I support the idea of reducing congestion on our roads, this section proposes a program that is too narrow and unlikely to have the desired effect of alleviating congestion. It would be better to evaluate all of the potential solutions to this problem and then pursue the solutions that are most likely to achieve the best results.

For this reason, I recommend that section 104 be amended, by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:-

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall design and execute a study that provides a detailed analysis of practical pathways by which the Commonwealth could reduce motor vehicle congestion and make appropriate recommendations for further study or pilot programs, if warranted. The department shall submit a written report of its findings, with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on transportation not later than June 30, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

Governor