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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Mass. Pike tolls at Interchange 19 in Allston-Brighton to be free for one hour Friday

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 21, 2012 09:53 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Tolls at Interchange 19 of the Massachusetts Turnpike in Allston-Brighton will be free for one hour Friday afternoon, according to the state transportation department.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra will pick up the tab for all westbound and eastbound tolls tallied at Interchange 19 on Interstate 90 between 5 and 6 p.m. on June 22, state officials said.

Drivers are still required to stop at a tollbooth or go through the E-ZPass/FastLane lanes with their transponders, the transportation department said in an announcement on its blog this week. E-ZPass/FastLane customers will see a credit and message from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood on their next statement.

The orchestra – to celebrate the 75th season of its famed summer home, Tanglewood located several miles north of the turnpike in western

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Tanglewood located several miles north of the turnpike in western Massachusetts – is paying not only for drivers' afternoon rush hour toll costs, but also for signage and promotional materials announcing the free Pike fares, the announcement said.

At Interchange 19, all vehicles are normally required to pay a flat fee. The cost is \$1.25 if paying in cash, or \$1 if paying with an E-ZPass/FastLane.

On the fourth Friday in June last year, 109,264 toll transactions were logged at that interchange, officials said; of those, 7,590 were recorded between 5 and 6 p.m.

With 6,066 vehicles passing through the electronic toll lanes and 1,524 passing through the cash lanes, drivers collectively paid \$7,971.

“Tanglewood [located in Lenox] is a straight shot down the Pike from Boston, but a world way with over 500 acres of lush lawn, gardens and unbelievable views, not to mention outstanding music,” said a statement from Boston Symphony Orchestra marketing director Sarah Manoog. “We hope folks of all ages will come out to Tanglewood this summer for a symphony, pops, jazz, of popular artist concert.”

Richard A. Davey, secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, applauded the orchestra's toll cost sponsorship.

“On Fridays in the summer, volume picks up on the Turnpike with drivers destined for a Western Mass getaway,” Davey said in a statement. “Whether drivers are heading home from work or traveling to enjoy the beauty of the Berkshires, this sponsorship by the BSO will be a welcomed tune for our customers.”

In a similar sponsorship [last Nov.](#), online retailer Zappos.com sponsored tolls for two hours during the afternoon rush on the day before Thanksgiving.

In the past, Dunkin' Donuts and Maxwell House have sponsored similar toll promotions.

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