



April 19, 2023

Dear Clackamas legislators and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The business community respectfully requests your immediate assistance to address our shared concerns about the proposed I-205 Toll Project. If implemented poorly, we strongly believe tolling will have a negative and detrimental impact to our economies. We support the actions requested by the agency letter dated April 6, 2023 requesting the four legislative actions summarized here:

- Direct ODOT to pause the I-205 Toll Project until it can be aligned with the Regional Mobility Pricing Program (RMPP)
- Schedule a public hearing in the Joint Committee on Transportation to discuss tolling
- Create the Regional Toll Advisory Committee (RTAC) in statute to directly advise the Oregon Transportation Commission
- Direct ODOT to develop a formula that allocates a portion of tolling revenues directly to impacted jurisdictions to address existing diversion

The importance of I-205 as a dependable and safe route for freight, regional, and interstate movement cannot be overstated. Businesses rely on certainty and predictability, but ODOT's current approach to toll I-205 ahead of the rest of the region and prior to resolving the bottleneck with Phase II construction will create more congestion, more uncertainty.

Interstate systems are intended to move people and goods, but they are also intended to support the communities they traverse by bringing other people into market areas. We are very concerned with the concept of pre-completion tolling and believe it will be wildly unpopular in

the region and could risk the success of the proposed and unproven Regional Mobility Pricing Program. ODOT projects that RMPP will come online within one year of the I-205 toll program. But please consider what one year of economic and commercial diversion will do to local businesses when people decide to shop elsewhere in the region for just one year. Moreover, if the I-205 toll program fails to garner public support and creates political pressure to kill RMPP, consider how a 30-year toll program that exists only in Clackamas County will affect where businesses grow and locate in the region.

We respectfully request your leadership to advance these solutions to ensure ODOT is meeting the needs of our shared constituents and to ensure any project that is advanced is fair, equitable, and beneficial to all Oregonians.