

May **DRAFT**, 2023

Dear Clackamas County State Legislators and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

We write to express our full support for the Oregon State Legislature to initiate a pause on Oregon's toll program, aside from bridges over the Columbia River, as proposed by HB 3614.

Clackamas County supports the passage of HB 3614, which compliments the Governor's recent announcement. We also look forward to hearing more details about the tolling pause and new Subcommittee.

The proposed toll project on I-205 does not have the support of the public. Every affected community has asked questions and raised concerns for nearly two years. ODOT has failed to provide answers and has failed to integrate feedback into their proposal.

Our message has been clear and consistent: any capital project must reduce diversion and improve safety in local communities. Therefore, the construction of Phase II must continue without delay.

ODOT's current proposed tolling plan would result in the exact opposite—our communities would experience more diversion, dramatically decreased safety regardless of travel mode, significant economic impacts for both travelers and businesses near the proposed tollway, and increased pollution and congestion in neighborhoods. Our recent comments on ODOT's Draft Environmental Assessment reflect those and other concerns.

A pause on tolling is intended to create the time necessary for ODOT to realign with the Legislature's vision and intent from HB 2017 and HB 3055, reengage with the community, and perform the additional analysis required to address concerns, namely:

- The I-205 Toll Project and the Regional Mobility Pricing Project must be analyzed together to show the cumulative impacts of regional tolling on the overall transportation system. This work must be done prior to implementing tolling on any one segment.
- The toll projects must have aligned implementation timelines.
- Safety on and off the toll corridor must be improved.
- Diversion impacts must be adequately mitigated, including pre-existing diversion caused by the bottleneck on I-205, which would be resolved with construction of Phase II of the I-205 Capital Project.
- Communities must have confidence in the plans and financial means to address proposed mitigation projects.
- Adequate alternative modes of travel must be established.

The outcome of the proposed Task Force on Tolling is to provide transparency and legislative oversight to ensure Oregonians that communities will not suffer undue safety impacts, isolation, or economic hardship.

We respectfully request HB 3614 be scheduled for a public hearing and work session before May 5.