

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Robert Van Brocklin
Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
355 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
[Sent electronically via email]

Subject: Clackamas County legislators united in opposition to current I-205 tolling proposal

Chair Van Brocklin and Members of the Oregon Transportation Commission,

As bipartisan, bicameral members of the Oregon Legislature representing Clackamas County, we write to you to express our serious concerns and united opposition to the current proposal to exclusively toll I-205. We also strongly urge the Oregon Transportation Commission to use *some* federal resources to help finance improvements to I-205.

The plan being proposed right now for tolling I-205 will disproportionately hurt our constituents and local businesses by making them pay more while worsening neighborhood congestion and reducing safety. Tolling local drivers who rely on I-205 for their everyday needs - when this project connects and benefits many parts of the region that will not have to shoulder the same cost - is fundamentally inequitable. Tolling I-205 can only be part of a larger, regional plan for improvements to transportation infrastructure and relief of congestion across the metro area.

Exclusively tolling I-205 will also generate significant traffic and safety problems by diverting more vehicles onto our local streets. This is especially troubling for students and families with young children, as well as seniors or those with disabilities. Our towns and neighborhoods have already experienced substantial population growth over the past decade, which have led to unprecedented levels of local congestion. This project, as it stands, threatens to worsen those trends.

The disproportionate financial burden placed upon our constituents and local businesses by this project – combined with increased traffic and reduced safety – is a real problem that continues to go unaddressed by the Oregon Transportation Commission. Failure to engage in a meaningful dialogue with us and those we represent to address these issues will undermine regional support for this plan and the Oregon Toll Program at-large.

As legislators representing Clackamas County, we will stand with our constituents and in vocal opposition to the current proposal to exclusively toll I-205 until you engage with us further on these issues.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share our concerns directly and work to find a common path forward.

Sincerely,



Representative Mark Meek (Co-Chair)
House District 40



Representative Rick Lewis (Co-Chair)
House District 18



Representative Janelle Bynum
House District 51



Senator Kayse Jama
Senate District 24



Senator Bill Kennemer
Senate District 20



Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26



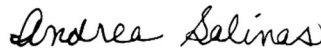
Representative Karin Power
House District 41



Representative Rachel Prusak
House District 37



Representative Jeff Reardon
House District 48



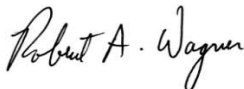
Representative Andrea Salinas
House District 38



Senator Kim Thatcher
Senate District 13



Senator Chuck Thomsen
Senate District 26



Senator Rob Wagner
Senate District 19



Representative Anna Williams
House District 52

CC: Kris Strickler, ODOT Director
Lindsay Baker, ODOT Government and External Relations
ODOT Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee Members