

# Update to Board of County Commissioners

**From: Public & Government Affairs**

**RE: ODOT INFRA Application for I-205 Phase II**

**Date: 05-12-2022**

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<p>Summary</p>	<p>ODOT is likely to apply for \$120 million in federal funding through the INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America) Grant Program for Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project. They have asked for letters of support from local stakeholders to accompany the application.</p> <p>Phase II is the portion of the I-205 project that adds a new lane in both directions from Stafford Rd to Hwy 43, with an estimated cost of \$453.5 million. An award of \$120 million would be the highest award since INFRA was created 6 years ago. The 2021 Infrastructure Bill infused the INFRA program with more funding than in past years, and re-categorized the program to be more favorable to the “lanes” portion of the I-205 project.</p> <p>Tolling remains ODOT’s primary tool to fund the remainder of this project.</p> <p>ODOT has applied for INFRA dollars for I-205 (Phase I) at least two other times.</p>
<p>Department Support</p>	<p>PGA – The BCC’s approved 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda prioritizes seeking federal funding for the I-205 Improvements Project. Over the past 5+ years, Clackamas County has supported ODOT’s efforts to apply for federal dollars for this project.</p> <p>In June 2021, Clackamas County signed (by logo) a letter requesting federal funds to “diversify the funding” of the I-205 project. This INFRA award would accomplish that goal.</p> <p>Phase I of the project, which focuses on the replacement and widening of the Abernethy Bridge, is slated to begin construction this year and is financed through funding mechanisms provided by HB 3055. Federal funds for Phase II would help to ensure that the lane widening portion of the project would proceed as envisioned.</p>
<p>Staff Recommendation</p>	<p><b>Support ODOT’s INFRA application.</b></p>
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>The INFRA application deadline is May 23 and ODOT has asked for support letters no later than May 20.</p> <p>This is a late decision by ODOT to apply because there was project uncertainty due to the RTP amendment discussion.</p>



May **DRAFT**, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Oregon Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant Application to USDOT for Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Clackamas County, Oregon, enthusiastically supports the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) INFRA grant application to advance Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project. This award will diversify the funding of a regionally supported project that was designated a High Priority Corridor in the 2015 FAST Act, prioritized by the Oregon State Legislature in 2017, and supported as a federal priority by the region's Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT).

The proposed project will remove a crippling freeway bottleneck on a 6-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Highway 43 by adding a through-lane in each direction. Serving both Oregon and Washington residents and businesses, I-205 was built with six lanes for most of its 37-mile length except for this six-mile section in Oregon that includes only four lanes. After nearly 50 years and significant population growth, this stretch of freeway fails to meet travel demand, creating bottleneck congestion throughout the day and needless diversion onto local city roads and surrounding rural infrastructure.

This project will provide enhanced freight mobility that will benefit the entire northwest. I-205 is a major north-south corridor around the Portland area for freight movement. The corridor connects advanced manufacturing, high tech, forestry, agricultural, and distribution/shipping businesses in Clackamas County, Portland, and the Willamette Valley with major import-export facilities such as the Port of Portland, the Portland International Airport, and the Port of Tacoma. Addressing the I-205 bottleneck will support the movement of \$26 million in commodities transported by more than 14,000 freight trucks daily, and benefit those businesses that depend on reliable movement of products to these freight facilities who do their part to strengthen the economy of Oregon and the nation.

We believe this award will provide a number of benefits to both the project itself and surrounding communities. The award will ensure Phase II has the funding that it needs to move

to construction. By ensuring this part of the region has the same number of lanes on I-205 as the rest of the region, the project will achieve the originally intended benefit to improve safety by significantly reducing diversion onto local roads. Additionally, Phase II of the project is necessary to establish appropriate lane and shoulder widths to accommodate consistent and predictable transit routes, where none exists today.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners firmly believes Phase II of the I-205 Improvements Project will provide significant benefits to local commuters, Clackamas County's economic development, and West Coast freight mobility. We urge your support for this project, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

Tootie Smith, Chair

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

**Attachment:**

Clackamas County Values on Proposed Transportation Funding Solutions for the Interstate System in the Portland Metropolitan Area

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY VALUES**  
**ON PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SOLUTIONS**  
**FOR THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA**

4.15.2021

Clackamas County supports a functional regional interstate system that prioritizes equity, safety, a vibrant economy, healthy and active communities, climate action, disaster resilience, and the reliable movement of people and goods.

We acknowledge that additional funding is needed to construct these projects and other improvements on the interstate system. Clackamas County has identified the following values that should be reflected in any approved funding solutions.

**To ensure a safe, equitable regional interstate system, funding solutions should...**

- Support timely allocation of funds to construct the projects of statewide significance from HB2017
- Ensure that revenue be reinvested in projects identified by an inclusive public process led by ODOT and coordinated with the local governments
- Elevate engagement with people who have been historically left out of policy discussions, such as low income families and people of color
- Establish viable alternative transportation options that support the functionality of the interstate system, such as an accessible transit system, in areas with inadequate service
- Support necessary improvements to accommodate the region's current and projected growth

**To support a vibrant economy & ensure the reliable movement of people and goods, funding solutions should...**

- Ensure that no tolling or congestion pricing occurs on any one part of the system prior to full system implementation to avoid economic disadvantages or unfair burdens on people (communities, businesses, and the movement of commerce)
- Maintain a transportation system for urban and rural residents that is dependable and predictable to attract new businesses and industry, and provides reliable travel times for commuters and employers
- Enhance opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in capital projects and incorporate Construction Career Pathways (C2P2) strategies to promote diversity in skilled construction occupations

**To prioritize disaster resiliency and climate action, funding solutions should...**

- Provide safe, efficient evacuation routes during natural disasters, such as wildfires and earthquakes, by upgrading vulnerable bridges and other transportation infrastructure to be earthquake ready
- Balance transportation improvements with the County's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 by working to improve regional air quality and mitigate impacts of vehicle pollution on public health and the environment

**To support healthy and active communities, funding solutions should...**

- Mitigate impacts on local facilities caused by diversion/rerouting of trips (all modes)
- Embed safety, health and equity into project designs and program policies (all modes)
- Improve connections and travel options to places of work, school, medical care, and recreation

**This document is not an endorsement or acceptance of any proposal to implement tolling or congestion pricing on I-205, as we believe it will have a disproportionate and detrimental effect on Clackamas residents, businesses, and visitors.**