

Dear Members of JPACT & Metro Council,

We are writing to communicate our thoughts on the Regional Congestion Pricing Study, Final Report.

Overall, we believe this is an extremely useful study to better understand various congestion pricing models. Additionally, we appreciate the inclusion of the Expert Panel, which brought forth valuable lived experience from other jurisdictions working to implement congestion pricing.

While the study provides the region with a high-level overview of four types of congestion pricing, it does not examine implications of implementation. Additionally, it did not fully explore revenue issues, including how revenue would be shared across the region.

The set of considerations listed on page 84 of the study can serve as a foundation for the next phase of work. Prior to this study being used as the model to commit to planning, policy development, and a financing model in the 2023 RTP update, we request the following steps:

- Convene conversations with regional leaders to hear local concerns and work towards consensus on core issues such as goals and outcomes, equity implications, revenue considerations, investment priorities, and ultimately selecting a preferred alternative.
- Define clear goals and outcomes for congestion pricing (such as equity, revenue generation, climate and emissions, safety, and changing driver culture), agreed upon by JPACT, before such a program is implemented; and
- Fully examine local impacts including diversion, mobility constraints in areas underserved by transit and multi-modal connections, potential shifts in the location and volume of entertainment travel and spending (such as recreational, cultural, arts, entertainment, dining, and similar sites), and changes to existing revenue streams; and
- Conduct detailed analysis to identify the specific benefits and impacts a pricing program would have on different geographic areas and demographic populations within the region, so that JPACT can know how to maximize benefits and address potential negative outcomes; and
- Identify clear, actionable steps that Metro and local governments can take to minimize further harm to ethnically diverse, low-income, transit-deficient, and other underserved communities so past injustices are not compounded.

Based on the additional granular analysis that decision-makers need to make informed policy decisions around congestion pricing, we request that the draft Resolution be amended as follows on page 3, Resolution #2 of Resolution 21-5179:

“The Metro Council hereby directs staff to continue further analysis and refinement of the study to address the unanswered questions and considerations and return to JPACT and the Metro Council to share those results prior to seeking direction on future RTP updates.”

Sincerely,

Paul Savas *OR BCC*