



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

Mandy Putney
Oregon Dept. of Transportation
355 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Via email

March 14, 2023

Dear Ms. Putney:

We are aware that the public comment period for the I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment (EA) was extended by 15 days to April 21st, 2023. While we appreciate the small extension, we do not feel that the 60 day public comment period is sufficient. The Environmental Assessment includes thousands of pages of information that must be reviewed and analyzed before comments can be developed. The proposed additional 15 days of review time does not provide sufficient time for analysis, material development, and coordination through this body.

We also remain concerned about the lack of opportunities for public engagement. Two webinars, one three-hour public hearing, and a survey all set to occur within 60 days will not provide sufficient opportunity for our community members to become informed and have the opportunity to provide feedback. Additionally, the proposal to set up Information Tables at local grocers and libraries during normal working hours will not reach the majority of residents. We are hearing from our constituents that more time and more accessible opportunities are needed. **We formally request an additional public hearing occur during the final 30 days of the requested 90 day public comment period.**

You are proposing a major change to how our transportation system (both on and off the highway) will function as evidenced by the extensive analysis presented in the EA. This proposal will cause significant impacts to our communities which we do not take lightly.

Therefore, as a participating agency for the I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment, **we reiterate our request that you extend the public comment period to 90 days by adding an additional 30 days.** This extension will allow adequate time for review and public engagement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith, Chair
On Behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

CC: Kris Strickler, Oregon Department of Transportation
Keith Lynch, Federal Highway Administration