



May 11, 2023

Dear Governor Kotek, Senate President Wagner, and House Speaker Rayfield:

Thank you for establishing the pause on toll collection until January 2026. This bipartisan, bicameral effort by many leaders in the state to reevaluate current plans is an example of listening to the public and working together for the benefit of our shared constituents.

The I-205 Bottleneck Project was prioritized in HB 2017 to reduce congestion on I-205 and improve safety impacts on local streets caused by drivers leaving the highway to avoid traffic. The associated I-205 Toll Project, as proposed in the Environmental Assessment, works against those goals. In particular, it would create more diversion into local communities and worsen safety conditions for the public. We hope this pause will allow ODOT and local agencies the opportunity to align priorities.

While appreciative of the pause, Clackamas County has many questions about the process moving forward. As you begin to formulate next steps, we respectfully request your commitment that local stakeholders will have meaningful access and inclusion in the work ahead. HB 3614 included a broad list of representatives who have a stake in the outcomes, including legislators, local jurisdictions, residents, business owners, freight representatives, transit providers, and others. We appreciate that structure and feel creating a workgroup or advisory committee would help bring our insight into your work. We stand ready to assist you in this effort.

Additionally, we respectfully encourage the Subcommittee to conduct analysis and contemplate solutions to the following issues:

- The I-205 Toll Project and the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) be analyzed together to show the cumulative impacts of regional tolling on the overall transportation system. This work should be done prior to implementing tolling on any one segment.
- Ensuring aligned implementation timelines on the two toll projects.
- Safety improvements on and off the toll corridor.

- Diversion impacts that are adequately mitigated, including pre-existing diversion caused by the bottleneck on I-205, which would have been resolved with construction of Phase II of the I-205 Bottleneck Project without tolling.
- Giving confidence to affected communities in ODOT's plans and financial means to address proposed mitigation projects.
- Establishment of adequate alternative modes of travel.

Lastly, while a pause on the collection of tolls is important to get this right, we stress that the I-205 Bottleneck Project (both phases) remain a state priority as outlined in HB 2017, and that these improvements should not be delayed as a result of this pause.

In the coming weeks, we aim to work jointly with our local partners to further identify and outline our hopes for the work of the newly created Subcommittee on Transportation Planning.

Thank you for bringing transparency and legislative oversight to ODOT's tolling proposals to assure Oregonians that communities will not suffer undue safety impacts, isolation, or economic hardship. We look forward to partnering with you in this ongoing work.

Sincerely,

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



Tootie Smith, Chair



Commissioner Paul Savas



Commissioner Martha Schrader



Commissioner Mark Shull



Commissioner Ben West

CC: Joint Committee on Transportation
Special Subcommittee on Transportation Planning
Clackamas Caucus
Clackamas Cities