



The 2023 State Legislature Must Take Action on the I-205 Toll Project April 05, 2023

Dear Clackamas County State Legislators and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The local governments listed here respectfully request your immediate assistance to address our shared concerns about the proposed I-205 Toll Project.

The importance of I-205 as a dependable and safe route for freight, regional, and interstate movement cannot be overstated. This critical need is the reason that the communities who rely on I-205 have been united in their advocacy to fix the bottleneck between Stafford Road and the Abernethy Bridge.

Unfortunately, the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) current approach to toll I-205 ahead of the rest of the region and prior to building the third lane on I-205 will have devastating impacts on neighboring communities. ODOT's plan will shift traffic from the interstate onto roadways within communities, causing increased safety risks and more congestion on local roads that are already failing.

ODOT's public engagement efforts to date have ignored and dismissed many of the questions and concerns raised by our cities, the county, the region and our shared constituents. ODOT staff have made it clear that they are being directed by the legislature to toll I-205 and that they are pursuing this approach per your direction. **We implore you to take legislative action this session to lessen the detrimental effects of the proposed tolling in our communities and your districts.**

To help you and the entire Clackamas delegation center on the shared priorities of our jurisdictions, we collectively request legislative action on the following four items that will have an immediate impact on the direction of the proposed toll program:

1. Direct ODOT to pause the I-205 Toll Project until it can be aligned with the Regional Mobility Pricing Program (RMPP), and, direct ODOT to conduct an analysis showing the full impacts of regional tolling on the overall transportation system prior to implementing tolling on any one segment;
2. Schedule a public hearing in the Joint Committee on Transportation, being mindful of the Committee's May 5th bill deadline, to provide a venue for the public to share impacts and concerns about the I-205 Toll Project, RMPP, and how ODOT plans to achieve its vision;
3. Create the Regional Toll Advisory Committee (RTAC) in statute to directly advise the Oregon Transportation Commission. Retain RTAC in perpetuity to guide development and implementation of the regional toll program. Also, create a technical committee comprised of regional technical staff to advise RTAC;
4. Direct ODOT to develop a formula that allocates a portion of tolling revenues directly to impacted jurisdictions to address existing diversion, affected transportation impacts related to tolling and congestion, operations and maintenance and new infrastructure projects for all modes beyond any NEPA required mitigations.

We respectfully request your leadership to advance these solutions to ensure ODOT is meeting the needs of our shared constituents and is only allowed to advance a project if it is fair, equitable, and beneficial to all Oregonians.