



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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January 5, 2023

Oregon Department of Transportation
Regional Mobility Pricing Project
Submitted to oregontolling@odot.oregon.gov

RE: "Scoping" Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes ODOT's proposed "Regional Mobility Pricing Project", or new tolls on I-205 and I-5.

Oregonians should not be forced to pay a toll to drive on freeways that they have already paid for. These tolls will not increase road capacity with new lanes or roadways, nor will they reduce congestion or commute times. With no alternative toll-free route, commuters will simply take sideroads to avoid financial pain with significant, negative impacts on surrounding communities.

Last month, the program director for the "I-5 Replacement Bridge" (formerly known as the failed Columbia River Crossing project) told officials that the project cost had ballooned to over \$6 Billion Dollars... "with LUCK" (I-5 replacement bridge costs: \$6 billion, with luck (koin.com)). This is an outrageous price tag for an endeavor that has already cost taxpayers millions of dollars with nothing to show for it. We know that these new tolls are slated to pay for regional transportation projects and that the bulk of these funds will pay for the light rail transit on the proposed I-5 Bridge as well as high rates of administrative costs associated with running a tolling program, as indicated by Gareth Prior in our August 25, 2022 Yamhill County Board of Commissioners meeting.

During Mr. Prior's presentation to our Board, he indicated that tolls on I-205 alone would be as high as \$8 per day. He was not prepared to give toll estimates on the proposed site on I-5 at the Boone Bridge, but one should assume a similar charge. For commuters living in Clackamas, Washington and Yamhill counties, the tolling costs will devastate family budgets. Mr. Prior also indicated that administrative overhead to run this program could be as high as 60% of the toll revenue collected.

It is also our understanding that ODOT needs federal authority to toll Oregonians, which you currently don't have. ODOT should not be wasting taxpayer money by studying a program that it does not have the authority to implement, let alone a program with such devastating impacts to working families. We oppose the "Regional Mobility Pricing Project" in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Berschauer
Chair

Kit Johnston
Vice-Chair

Mary Starrett
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on

1/5/23 by Board Order
B.O. 23-08