



Oregon Toll Program: Engagement with Portland Regional Policymakers & Statewide Voices

Background and context

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2017 that directed the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to pursue and implement tolling on I-5 and I-205 in the Portland region to help manage traffic congestion.

Developing a new toll program in Oregon is a complex process that requires many policy and programmatic decisions leading up to implementation. Incorporating local and regional voices into decisions will be an essential step to delivering projects that achieve shared goals and build long-term trust.

From the start in 2017, ODOT has been conducting a process that involves Portland regional area policymakers and key stakeholders. This began with supporting a Policy Advisory Committee during the Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis, the first stage of the journey. Now in 2022, there are three toll projects currently advancing in the Portland metropolitan area (Regional Mobility Pricing Project, I-205 Toll Project, and the Interstate Bridge Replacement),

Recent regional discussions, such as those around the Regional Transportation Plan amendment for the I-205 Toll Project, included a consistent theme that there is not a clear space where policymakers and key stakeholders can provide feedback to ODOT and the Oregon Transportation Commission on key policy questions. In response, ODOT implemented the following actions:

- Supported the creation of an R1ACT Toll Work Group and extended membership to add southwest Washington voices to support a space of dialogue and understanding. This group was established to help partners feel prepared to provide feedback to the OTC through R1ACT, JPACT, and Metro Council.
- Provided an updated timeline with toll project milestones, in order to solicit timing recommendations from Portland area policymakers through R1ACT, JPACT, and Metro Council.
- Collaborated with the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) Diversion Subcommittee, which is comprised of local city policymakers, to develop a recommendation on ODOT's short- and long-term plan to address diversion created by the I-205 Toll Project.

ODOT has heard from Portland regional policymakers that these actions did not meet all of their needs, especially around the ability to provide timely input on key toll policy questions. Accordingly, ODOT is responding to this input and, with input from regional stakeholders, has identified a structure for Portland area policymaker engagement for the next few years.

Proposal: Regional Toll Advisory Committee

The following pages describe the committee as our next step towards better supporting and involving Portland regional policymakers. Also, included is a description of how this new committee would be positioned with the existing committee and work group structure.



Regional Toll Advisory Committee

Purpose

This committee would provide a forum for identified organizations to provide feedback to ODOT leadership in advance of key OTC or ODOT decisions regarding the following:

- Accountability: ODOT and regional partners will report to the committee on topics in the “ODOT and Regional Partner Commitments” and Letter of Agreement between ODOT and Metro Council that was a part of the I-205 Toll Project Regional Transportation Plan amendment approval process.
- Expediting the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP): The committee will discuss strategies to develop regional support and consensus for the RMPP, which could accelerate the planning, analysis, and approval schedule with the U.S. Department of Transportation to lessen or remove the timing gap between I-205 and regional tolling coming online.
- Diversion impacts and mitigation: The committee will review and provide feedback on short- and long-term plans for mitigating and monitoring diversion caused by tolling on I-5 and I-205.
- Transit and multimodal: The committee will discuss ways to leverage resources and align strategically to partner in delivering a transportation system that provides reliable transit and multimodal transportation options to complement congestion pricing on I-5 and I-205.
- I-205 Toll Project and RMPP coordination: This committee will provide feedback upon the alignment between congestion pricing and toll policies in the Oregon Transportation Plan, Oregon Highway Plan, and Regional Transportation Plan in pursuit of providing a comprehensive framework to incorporate the I-205 tolling project and the RMPP in the context of the larger regional and statewide transportation system.

Timing

The committee would start meeting in July and we are working on timing and frequency to best meet the ODOT and OTC decision-making schedule for the scope of this committee.

Membership

This committee will include the ODOT Director and a composition of people similar to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis (elected officials, business leaders, and non-profit leaders). For the PAC, there were 25 members.

Organization	
1	Oregon Department of Transportation (Director and Urban Mobility Office)
2	Washington Department of Transportation
3	City of Portland
4	City of Vancouver
5	Washington County





6	Clackamas County
7	Multnomah County
8	Clark County
9	Metro
10	SW Washington Regional Transportation Council
11	TriMet
12	Small transit provider (SMART, CAT, Ride Connection, etc.)
13	Port of Portland
14	Business organization – Washington
15	Business organization – Oregon
16	Public Health
17	Labor Union
18	Environmental
19	Active Transportation
20	Cities of Clackamas County
21	Cities of Washington County
22	Cities of Multnomah County
23	Tribal Government
24	Statewide – Trucking / Commerce

Coordinating the toll committee universe

There is a multi-faceted system that ODOT is engaging to gain understanding and expertise to support decisions that need to be made at the federal, state, and regional-levels. The following provides a brief explanation of the committee or organization and its role:

- **Regional Toll Advisory Committee (new):** Serves as the coordination space for input from the Portland region policymakers. Reports to ODOT Director Strickler with feedback on how the toll projects are addressing impacts and policies that are being developed for the OTC.
- **Rules Advisory Committee (coming in late 2022):** Provide input to the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding the development of draft rules, which the OTC will consider for adoption after public review. During the initial phase (through fall of 2023), the committee will consider rules to address HB3055 and toll rates for I-205.
- **Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) Diversion Subcommittee:** Local elected officials that are providing a recommendation on the short- and long-term plan to address diversion created by tolling to the Regional Toll Advisory Committee.
- **Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee:** Providing recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission on how to advance equity and address impacts to people experiencing low-incomes, increasing transportation and multimodal options, and addressing impacts to neighborhood health and safety. Providing feedback to ODOT on toll project engagement and project-level analysis. Providing



feedback to the Rules Advisory Committee on rate setting and rulemaking decision.

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT):** FHWA has decision-making authority on the toll project environmental review documents and UDOT approval will be needed for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project.
- **Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Metro Council:** As the federally mandated metropolitan planning organization, these groups have decision-making power over the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP). The RTP update will shape regional congestion pricing and toll policies.
- **Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) Update – Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC):** Portland area policymakers and stakeholders hold seats on advisory committees that will shape statewide congestion pricing and toll policies.
- **Transit Multimodal Work Group:** Large and small transit and multimodal transportation providers throughout the region who are providing recommendations on toll projects to the Regional Toll Advisory Committee.
- **Regional Modeling Group:** Technical transportation staff from regional agencies that review the transportation analysis modeling approach and data to provide guidance and feedback to ODOT.