



May 14, 2021

Representative Boshart Davis:

Although I provided some answers to your questions during today's public hearing, I am providing the following written responses to be included in the record.

- 1) HB2017 committed to finding the Rose Quarter Project, and the intent of this bill is to continue to fulfill that commitment. How does this bill affect your position on the project?

Washington County remains committed to the completion of all projects that were identified in HB 2017 (2017). The regional transportation system will only be improved if all the bottlenecks identified in 2017 are addressed. The people that live and work in Washington County and the businesses that move their goods in and out of the county need to be able to move across the region more efficiently. The proposed amendment extends the work towards meeting the commitments to address these bottlenecks, including the ongoing work on the Rose Quarter. We continue to support the work on the Rose Quarter project.

- 2) If this bill passes, what benefits does this provide for the local jurisdictions that they don't have already? What exactly is in this bill that brought the local jurisdictions to a place of support?

Washington County supports creating a path forward for the process and projects that will address regional congestion. HB 2017 sought to provide the revenues needed to fund improvements to system and to address the congestion throughout the region by looking at tolling the regional system. The county's goal for this session was to insure that legislation to further modify ODOT's tolling authority continues to meet these joint goals. For Washington County, the -8 amendment creates a flexibility for the short-term to finance continued progress towards the major improvement projects. In the longer term, the region continues to work towards meeting the needs to have a better transportation system. In the -8, there is a clear expectation that revenues raised will go towards the major projects along the interstates and to address the diversion impacts that are likely to result from instituting the tolls, which was vital for Washington County.

- 3) How do you expect your local communities to react to tolling? How do you manage that?

Any conversation about raising revenues for services is difficult. Local governments like Washington County know that people need to understand what services they will be provided

in return. As the region continues to work with the state in developing the tolling proposal for federal consideration, public process will be vital to success. Using the public opportunities that are inherent in the federal process will require clarity from all partners about what will be done with the revenue. Washington County recognizes that a key part of the work includes a successful public process.

I would be happy to have any further conversations on this bill as we will continue to work through the process of meeting the needs of the regional transportation system.

Sincerely,

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