



CITY OF
West Linn

March 15, 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sent via email

Re: City of West Linn Support for HB 3065 amendments

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the West Linn City Council, I am writing to express the City of West Linn's **strong support for amendments to HB 3065 that would fund I-205 improvements and require more study of the equitable application of highway tolling.**

The I-205 Expansion/Abernethy Bridge Reconstruction/Seismic improvement project is almost design complete and will soon be construction ready. It has unanimous regional and community support. Over 150,000 vehicles including 16,000 trucks use this section of highway each day, and traffic congestion is already building again as traffic increases with pandemic restrictions easing. I-205 is currently on the state's top 5% of the Safety Priority Index System for crashes. Bridge repairs are needed to ensure the state's residents and businesses are protected from a catastrophic bridge collapse due to earthquakes. Overall, this is a section of roadway in desperate need of improvement.

We understand the importance of the Rose Quarter project, but while that work is delayed, we must continue to move forward on I-205. Each year we wait, the estimated cost of the I-205 work increases by \$15-20 million. Taking advantage of the existing penny per gallon approved in 2017 only makes sense.

We also support amendments to HB 3065 that require more work to assess the equitable application of tolls before moving forward on any tolling plan. We must be certain tolling doesn't disproportionately impact our region's most vulnerable workers and businesses, and avoid driving highway traffic onto already burdened local streets.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to comment on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Jules Walters
Mayor

CC: Senator Rob Wagner, Representative Rachel Prusak