



May 11, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners supports the -8 amendments to House Bill 3065. In particular, we appreciate the concept of a regional penny that will allow for construction of the I-205 bottleneck project beginning early next year.

The I-205 project is a key transportation priority for Clackamas County and we are pleased by ODOT's progress in advancing Phase I to shovel ready status. We also look forward to continued forward momentum on the remainder of the project in Phase II. Completing this project is critical to honoring the intent of HB 2017. We recognize that I-205 is a component of a larger regional system, and for that system to work, we must implement the vision of HB 2017, which this amendment aims to do.

We also acknowledge that the legislature previously authorized tolling to move forward and that the state is in the process of studying how it may be implemented. To that end, last month the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners adopted a set of transportation values to help guide our positions on these complex issues. These values are included with this testimony.

We oppose tolling because we believe that it will have a disproportionate and disparate effect on the residents of Clackamas County. First, we lack a local grid system, so there are few alternative routes to move east to west besides 205. And second, there is no public transit service across the Abernethy Bridge through West Linn to Wilsonville. For these reasons, if tolling is implemented, many of our residents will have few if any alternatives to paying a toll on the interstate.

Any proposal that moves forward must be equitable. It would be inequitable if Clackamas County residents are forced to pay more frequent tolls and bear a greater burden of funding projects throughout the I-205 corridor, including outside the county.



We also believe that if tolling is implemented, it should be done at roughly the same time across the region to not unfairly burden one part of our area over another. ODOT's current plans would begin tolling on I-205 years earlier than the rest of the system.

The conversation around tolling began in 2017 but it is still in its infancy. When, how, and if tolling is ultimately implemented will be negotiated for years to come. Clackamas County believes that we must all work together to ensure that any proposal prioritizes equity, safety, a vibrant economy, healthy and active communities, climate action, disaster resilience, and the reliable movement of people and goods.

To that end, thanks to Speaker Kotek and Rep. McLain for your intentional efforts to include Clackamas County at the table. We appreciate your commitment to implementing the intent of HB2017 and your efforts to ensure that our input is incorporated as part of this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and we urge the committee to move this proposal forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tootie Smith".

Tootie Smith, Chair

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners