

Submitter:

Matthew Jacobson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am writing to express my opposition and extreme concern regarding proposed 205 tolls.

My understanding is that ODOT's own projections show Highway 43 and other nearby surface streets will see an increase of 50 to 100%. Highway 43 is already congested and backed up at peak times and adding that much additional traffic will bring gridlock and unsafe conditions for our residents and our school children. I'm very concerned it will affect everything from emergency response times to the quality of life for Oregonians.

It's also deeply troubling to me that ODOT plans to use the tolls to bring in so much above and beyond the cost of the bridge or upgrades... based on the projections I've seen the company operating the tolls will itself bring in more revenue than it cost to upgrade the bridge.

I think that it is completely unfair, unreasonable, and unAmerican to saddle local residents with such an enormous financial burden on top of dramatically and negatively impacting the liability of the immediate area. I currently use 205 to commute about 50% of the time, but it seems like it's going to be unaffordable as a daily route in the future if tolls are implemented.

I truly fear for future my young children will have here if this proceeds. I urge you to please find another way to pay for bridge improvements besides tolling generations.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the voice of a citizen.

Hopeful,
Matthew Jacobson