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# PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE BI-STATE TOLLING SUBCOMMITTEE

Received between February 23, 2024 and March 14, 2024

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Comment Received: 2/16/2024

From: Richard Cox

Email Subject: Tolling for the I-5/Columbia River Bridge

Attachment Included: No

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My experience in paying tolls has been for the advantage of driving on roads designed to move me from Point A to Point B in less time than would be required if I were to travel on local roadways. The I-5/Columbia River bridge doesn't provide that advantage. It is a necessity, not an advantage.

Access to toll roads generally requires entering via a tolling facility. Construction of these facilities will likely cost millions of dollars, so a portion of the toll fee will be directed toward that expense. Purchase of land for the tolling facilities will be another expense. Where is the available, vacant land? Occupied land equals greater expense for acquisition. Now, factor in the wages for staffing the toll facility and facility maintenance. These additional expenses greatly increase the total cost.

In the past, there was discussion about constructing a bridge of "architectural beauty and uniqueness". The vast majority of commuters would prefer a bridge with the simplicity and efficiency of the Glenn Jackson/I-205 structure. Spare us the additional expense.

Lastly, I am puzzled as to why Oregon and Washington taxpayers must bear the expense for construction of a bridge on a U. S. Interstate highway that benefits the entire country, i.e. interstate commerce.

Respectfully, Richard Cox

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Comment Received: 3/8/2024

From: Jason

Email Subject: Toll

Attachment Included: No

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I hear the state is missing the message NO toll but with tina brown/kotek in office who care what the tax payers wants

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Comment Received: 3/8/2024

From: Sharon Bush

Email Subject: Toll

Attachment Included: No

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It looks like back to square one with the anticipation of toll fees for the new bridge to be built connecting Oregon and Washington states. I found I still have my Oregon Motorist from AAA that has headlines BRIDGE TOLL TO END JAN L, 1967. The paper is dated June 1963. It seems if a toll booth is put on the

bridge or close to the bridge traffic would be backed more than it already is.  
Sharon Bush Cottage Grove.

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Comment Received: 3/8/2024

From: Paul Cesmat

Email Subject: Tolling

Attachment Included: No

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I strongly oppose charging a toll on an interstate freeway. We already pay enough in gasoline taxes. Isn't this project paid for by the federal gov't.? Public roads should not be toll roads. In fact, all roads should be open and free, and private toll roads should not be allowed.

Sincerely,

Paul Cesmat,  
Springfield Oregon

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Comment Received: 3/10/2024

From: Tonja Dirkx

Email Subject: Tolls are not the best way to collect money

Attachment Included: No

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--a significant portion of each toll collected will go to building and servicing the toll program—NOT TO THE ROAD PROJECTS. There are less wasteful ways to tax us—eg the Oregon 2021-23 kicker was 5.6 billion—how much road would that have bought us and how many years earlier?

--individuals from rural areas are likely to forego health care rather than come to tertiary health care centers in Portland

—re the proposed tolls through the Portland Metro area: there will be increased vehicular traffic on surface streets, resulting in more car-on-car, car-on-bicycle commuter, and car-on-pedestrian accidents

--this regressive tax will disproportionately affect persons of lesser economic privilege; it is a sales tax on roads

--everything will become more expensive as taxed businesses (including taxis/Lyfts/food delivery) pass the toll costs onto their clients—so we pay twice

--it will forever change Portlandia and our sense of place for the worse; toll roads are hostile and unwelcoming to residents and visitors alike

--we will pay whatever ODOT says we will pay—current estimations are ~\$6 each way over the Columbia river, and up to \$15 each way from Wilsonville to Vancouver as starters, rates can increase at a whim

TOLLS ARE TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION  
TOLLS HURT HUMANS

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!!!!!!

Tonja Dirkx  
Portland, Oregon