

I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee

July 19, 2024, Meeting 6



Agenda

- Welcome
- Public comment
- IBR Program update
- WSDOT Toll Division update
- Level 3 Scenarios Recommendation
- Upcoming meetings
- Next steps

Public Comment



Public Comment

- If you wish to provide public comment, click the 'Raise Hand' icon now
- You will be assigned a number at the front of your name in zoom to identify the order of public commenters
- When it is close to your turn, a prompt will pop up on screen to accept an invitation to join as a 'panelist'
- When you are called on, you will have 3 minutes to provide your comment
- When you are finished, staff will re-assign you from a 'panelist' to an 'attendee' in the meeting

IBR Program Update

Frank Green



Proposed Funding Sources

► Cost Estimate: \$5 – 7.5 B

	Status	Expected Value
Existing State Funding	Committed	\$100 M
Connecting WA Funding—Mill Plain Interchange	Committed ¹	\$117 M
Move Ahead WA Funding	Committed	\$1,000 M
Oregon Funding Contribution	Committed	\$1,000 M
FHWA Bridge Investment Program Grant	Committed ²	\$1,500 M
USDOT Mega Grant	Committed	\$600 M
Toll Funding	Committed ³	\$1,100 – 1,600 M
FTA New Starts CIG Funding	Prospective	\$900 - 1,100 M
IBR Funding Totals		\$6,317 – 7,017 M

Updated as of 07.12.2023

¹ These funds were deferred to a later date and adjusted for inflation by the Washington State Legislature in the 2023 session.

² Combines \$1 M BIP Planning Grant (2022) and \$1.499 B BIP Construction Grant (2024)

³ Legislative authorization to toll has been secured in both states and toll funding of \$1.24 B has been confirmed by both states at toll rates assumed in the 2023 Financial Plan under a base case financing scenario. Toll rates and policies will be jointly set by the Washington State and Oregon Transportation Commissions.

WSDOT Toll Division Update

Ed Barry



Level 3 Scenarios Recommendation



I-5 Bridge Toll Authorization in Both States

- The Washington State Legislature authorized tolling for the Interstate 5 bridge replacement project in 2023 (*RCW 47.56.902*).
 - Authorizes tolling on the existing and replacement I-5 bridges.
 - Toll revenues must be spent on construction, maintenance and operation of the toll facility.
 - Prohibits tolls on the Washington portion of I-205.
- The 2013 Oregon bill authorizing tolling for the Columbia River Crossing project included language related to tolling the Interstate Bridge (*HB 2800*).
 - Tolls are to be used only to fund the project, must meet requirements for debt issued for the project and must pay for maintenance and operation of the project
 - Tolls must consider traffic demand management
 - Tolls must be reduced after paying off construction

Bi-State Toll Subcommittee Toll Rate & Policy Considerations

In addition to addressing funding requirements and existing laws in each state, the bi-state subcommittee will consider the following in advancing toll rates and policies:

- **Safe and Efficient Mobility:** Improve corridor mobility and efficient operations.
- **Equity:** Minimize effects on vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.
- **Environmental Quality:** Contribute to the reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Economic Vitality:** Support the efficient movement of goods and services across the bridge.

Level 3 Toll Scenario Development: Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee Steps

- **March – April:** Reviewed level 2 toll scenario analysis results and assumptions.
- **May – June:** Considered and identified preliminary level 3 toll scenario recommendations.
- **July:** Advance level 3 toll scenario recommendations for approval by the Washington and Oregon Transportation Commissions on October 1.

Level 3 Toll Scenario Development Considerations

- ▶ **Provide detailed traffic and revenue projections sufficient to:**
 - Inform toll rate setting by the two Commissions
 - Leverage at least \$1.24 billion in capital funding
 - Meet all financial obligations over the forecast horizon
 - Eventually obtain an “investment-grade” credit rating to secure financing
- ▶ **Narrow consideration to about 3 scenarios to facilitate in-depth analysis**
 - Determine appropriate combinations of rate and policy options as scenario concepts
 - May include forecast stress-tests / risk analyses to address financial planning questions

What we heard from the June meeting

▶ Toll escalation

- Request to moderate escalation in the highest revenue toll scenario by changing it to 3% every other year

▶ Low-income toll program

- Questions about considerations and system requirements and that additional data could be gathered through the stated preference survey

▶ Toll rates

- Discussion around weekend toll rates and why they are assumed to be lower than weekday toll rates

Recommended Level 3 T&R Study Toll Scenarios

1	Weekday Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)		Weekend Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)	Truck Toll Multipliers	Toll Escalation	Low-Income Toll Program
	Pre-Completion	Post Completion				
	Lower + 2.15% \$1.55 - 3.20	Hybrid + 2.15% \$1.55 - 3.65	Two Step (Min/Midday)	2.0x / 4.0x	2.15% Annually	50% Discount when New Bridge Opens

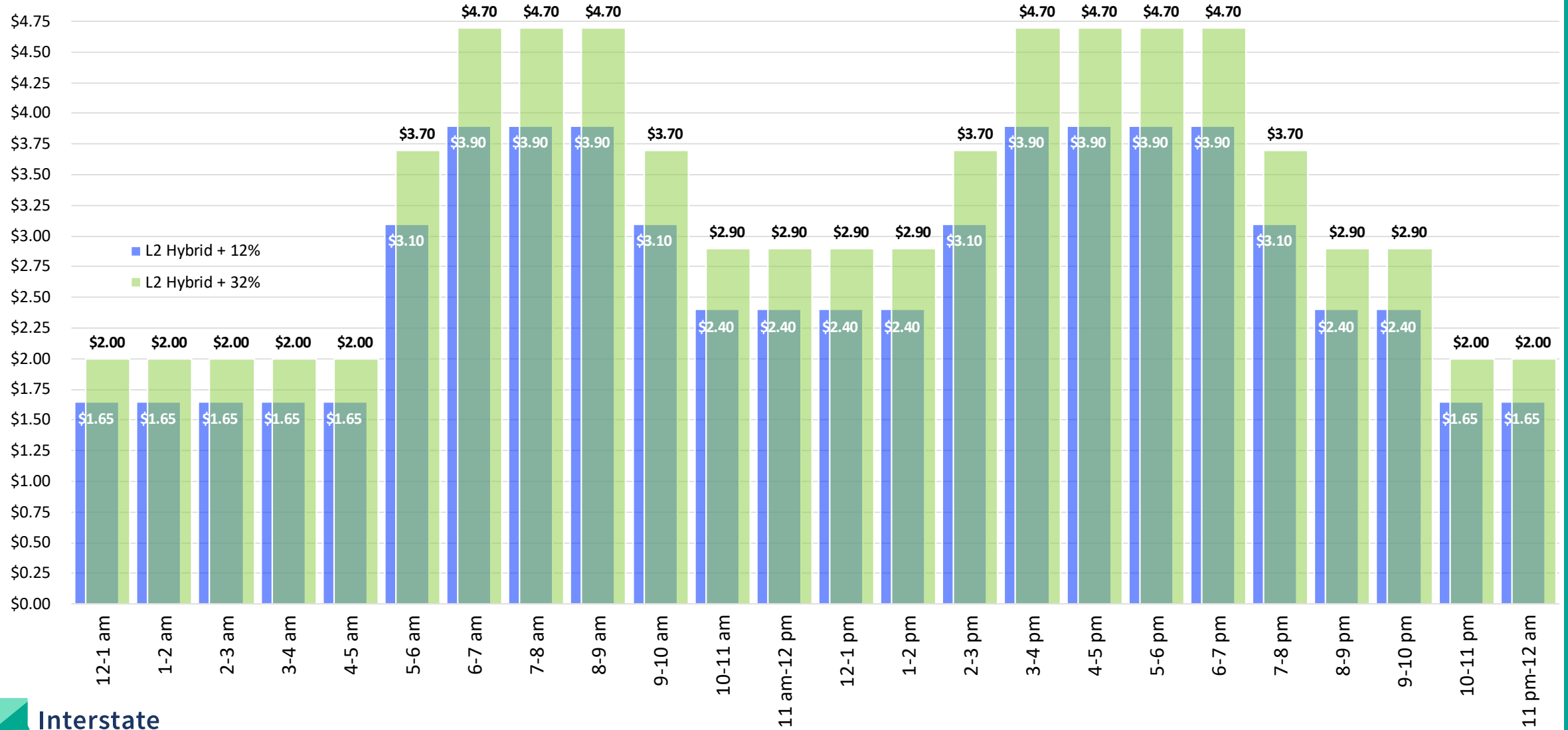
2	Weekday Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)		Weekend Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)	Truck Toll Multipliers	Toll Escalation	Low-Income Toll Program
	Pre-Completion	Post Completion				
	Hybrid + 2.15% \$1.55 - 3.65	Hybrid + 10% \$1.65 - 3.90	Three Step (Min/Mid/Peak)	1.5x / 3.0x	2.15% Annually	50% Discount when New Bridge Opens

3	Weekday Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)		Weekend Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)	Truck Toll Multipliers	Toll Escalation	Low-Income Toll Program
	Pre-Completion	Post Completion				
	Hybrid + 10% \$1.65 - 3.90	Hybrid + 10% \$1.65 - 3.90	Two Step (Min/Midday)	1.5x / 3.0x	2.15% Annually	50% Discount <i>as soon as practical</i>

4	Weekday Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)		Weekend Toll Rates & Hours (2026 \$)	Truck Toll Multipliers	Toll Escalation	Low-Income Toll Program
	Pre-Completion	Post Completion				
	Hybrid + 32% \$2.00 - \$4.70	Hybrid + 32% \$2.00 - \$4.70	Three Step (Min/Mid/Peak)	1.5x / 3.0x	3% Every 2 Years	50% Discount <i>as soon as practical</i>

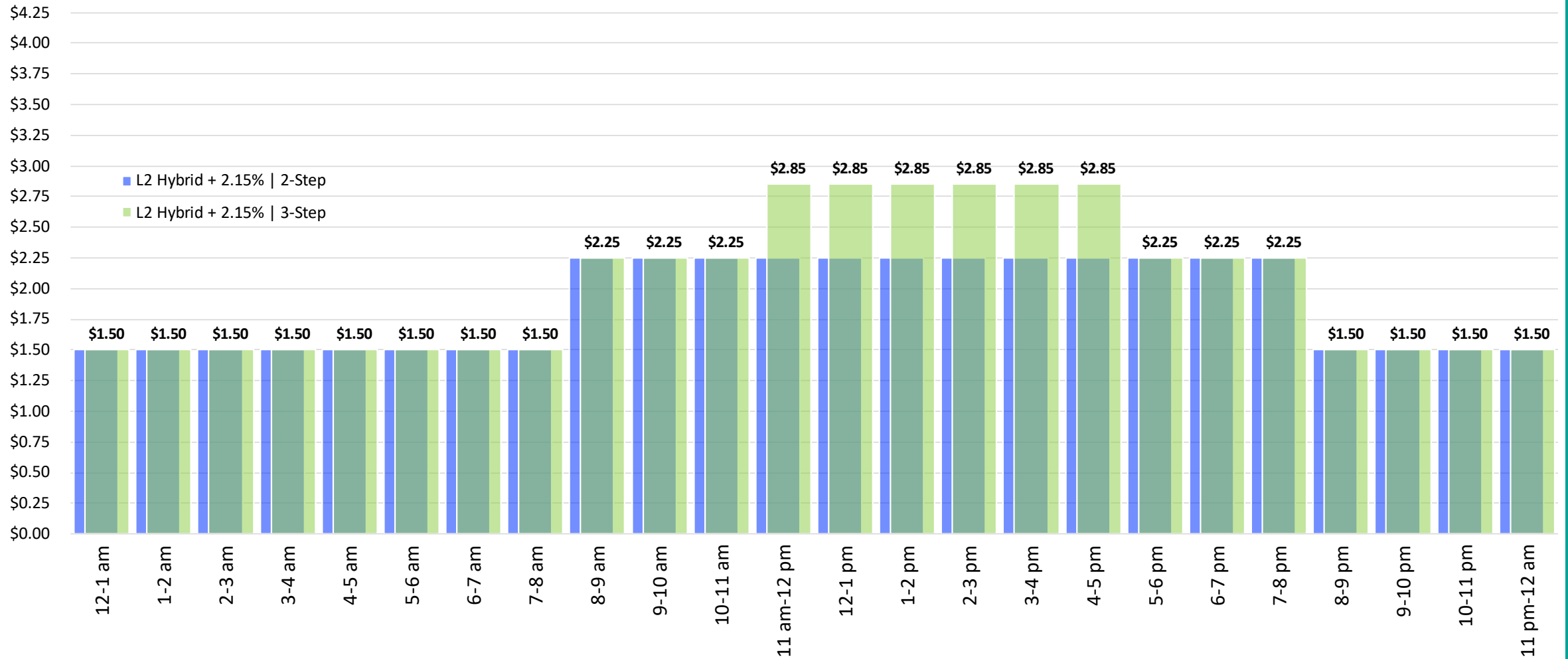
Weekday Toll Rates Examples: Hybrid + 10% vs. Hybrid + 32%

Passenger vehicles with a *Good To Go!* account at start of tolling in 2026 dollars



Weekend Toll Rates Example – 2-Step vs. 3-Step

Passenger vehicles with a *Good To Go!* account at start of tolling in 2026 dollars



Other Level 3 T&R Study Considerations

- ▶ **Civil penalty adjudication process and revenue / fee recovery**
 - Bi-state reciprocity agreements
- ▶ **Refinement of potential Low-Income Toll Program administrative costs**
- ▶ **Refine assumptions and cost for temporary or permanent walk-in customer service centers**
- ▶ **Estimates for bridge insurance premiums**

Discussion and Approval of Recommended Scenarios



Upcoming Meetings Work Plan

Carl See



I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee Milestones

Milestones completed to date

- **January 2024:** Full Commissions agreed to I-5 Bi-State Tolling Agreement & appointed subcommittee members
- **February 2024:** First meeting of the I-5 Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee
- **March – September 2024:** Develop and recommend Level 3 toll rate scenarios

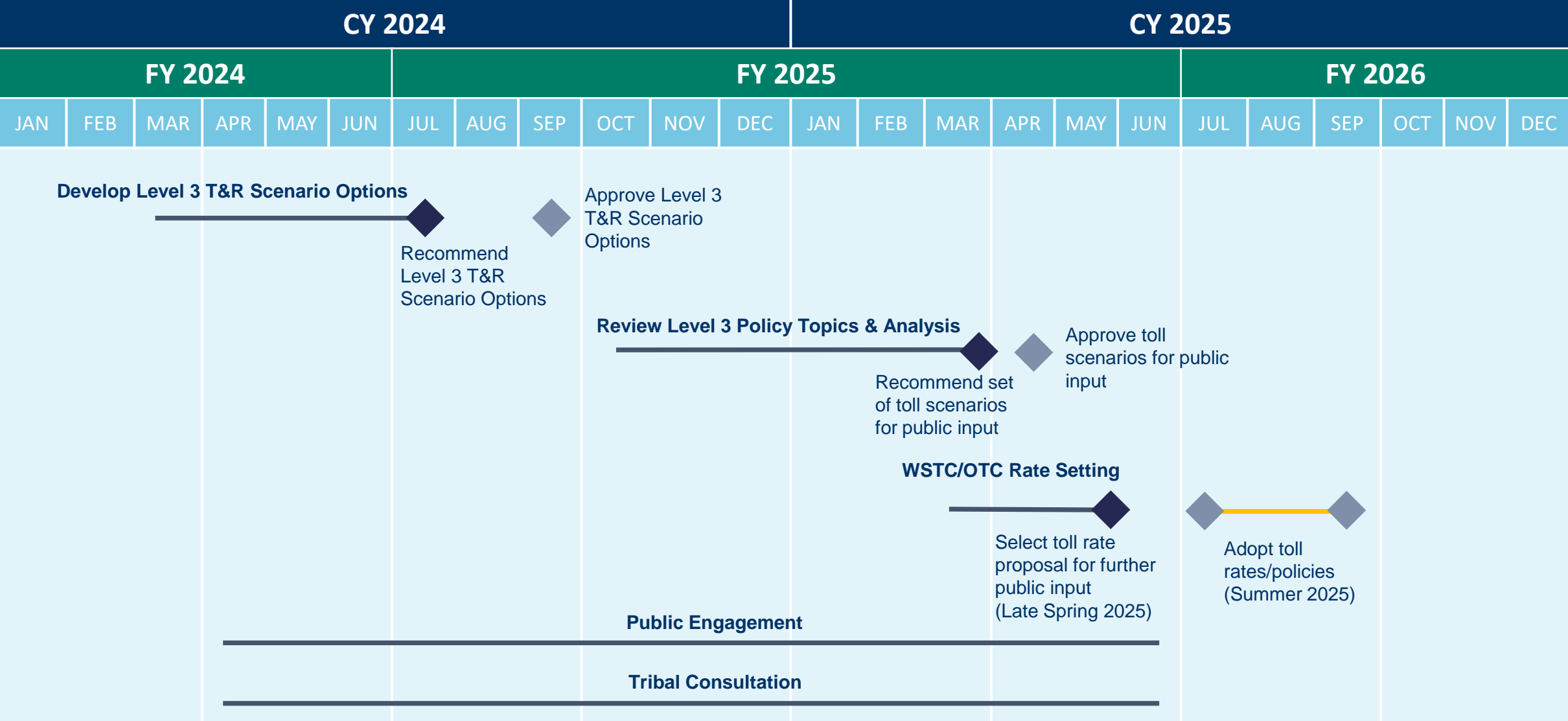
OTC and WSTC full commissions meeting

- **October 1, 2024 –** Adopt Level 3 toll rate scenarios


Remaining milestones

- **Winter 2024 – Spring 2025:** Develop and recommend toll rate scenarios for public input for approval by the full Commissions
- **Spring – Summer 2025:** Recommend final toll rates and policy for adoption by the full Commissions

I-5 Bridge Rate Setting Schedule



Legend

Subcommittee action 

Full Commission action 

Next Steps



Next Steps

Future subcommittee meetings:

- August 16 – proposed cancellation
- September 20 – hold for potential meeting, as needed

OTC and WSTC joint full commissions meeting

- October 1, 10am-noon

Subcommittee websites:

- Washington: <https://wstc.wa.gov/programs/tolling/i-5-bridge-over-the-columbia-river/>
- Oregon: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Get-Involved/Pages/Bistate-toll-commission.aspx>

To receive future meeting updates: Email info@bistatesubcommittee.org to sign up