



Washington State  
Transportation Commission



# I-405 & SR 167 Express Toll Lanes

## Toll Rate Setting Public Engagement Update

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# I-405 & SR 167 Express Toll Lanes Toll Rate Setting Needs

Adjustments are needed to the toll rates and toll rate policies on the SR 167 and I-405 Express Toll Lanes (ETLs), in advance of completing:

- SR 167 toll system upgrades, by December 2025
- I-405 Renton to Bellevue Widening and ETL projects, as soon as December 2025

These adjustments will provide benefits to all users of the I-405 & SR 167 corridor by:

- Supporting funding for corridor expansions and improvements committed to by the Legislature
- Enabling faster and more reliable trips in the ETLs for all vehicles, including carpools and transit
  - Improved capacity to meet legal performance goals for maintaining average vehicle speeds within the ETLs above 45 miles per hour 90% of the time during peak hours
- Improving the ease of using the ETLs by bringing consistent operational rules to the entire 50-mile corridor.

# I-405 & SR 167 Express Toll Lanes

## Current Toll Rate Structure

The current toll rates and policies (*as of March 1, 2024*) for the SR 167 and I-405 Express Toll Lanes (ETLs) are as follows:

	Max Toll	Min Toll	Hours of Operation	Peak Hours	HOV Policy
<b>SR 167 HOT Lanes</b>	\$15	\$1	5a-8p, 7 days/week	5a-9a & 3p-8p	HOV 2+ always exempt from tolls
<b>I-405 ETLs</b>			5a-8p, weekdays only		HOV 3+ always exempt from tolls; HOV 2+ exempt from tolls during non-peak hours (9a-3p)

As directed by the Legislature, this followed action taken by the Commission in January 2024 to support additional revenue and performance improvements. This action:

- Adjusted the minimum and maximum rates for both facilities, to \$1.00 and \$15 respectively
- Adjusted the hours of operation for both facilities
- Adjusted the time in which 3+ HOVs are in effect on the I-405 ETLs

# I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting

## Recap of Scenarios Being Analyzed

Four scenarios are currently being analyzed in advance of completion of SR 167 toll system upgrades by December 2025, and the I-405 Renton to Bellevue Widening and ETL project, as soon as December 2025:

	Extended Peaks (5a-10a, 2p-8p)	HOV 3+ during peak hours (new to SR 167)	Increase Max Toll to \$18	Weekend Tolling
<b>Scenario A</b>	X	X		
<b>Scenario B</b>	X	X		X
<b>Scenario C</b>	X	X	X	
<b>Scenario D</b>	X	X	X	X

Note:

- All scenarios assume **HOV 3+ during extended peak periods (5a-10a, 2p-8p)**
- **Weekend Tolling 5a-8p, HOV 2+ all hours**
- **\$2 Pay-by-Mail charge** applied once per corridor trip

# **I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting: 2024 WSTC Public Engagement Efforts**

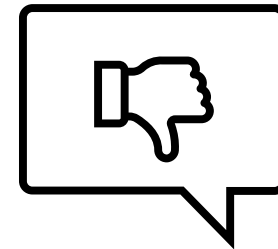
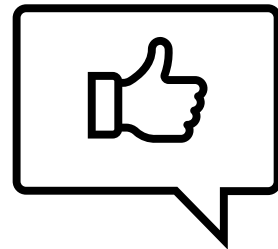


# I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting

## 2024 WSTC Public Engagement Efforts

Throughout Summer and Fall 2024, the WSTC engaged with the public on toll rate options for the I-405 and SR 167 ETLs:

- An Online Open House, hosted by WSDOT between August 19 and October 11
- An Online Survey, hosted by the WSTC between November 18 and December 13
- Updates provided to the I-405 / SR 167 Executive Advisory Group (EAG) and Interagency Working Group (IWG)



# I-405 & SR 167 Online Open House





# I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting Online Open House

Between August 19 and October 11, WSDOT hosted an Online Open House in partnership with the Commission to for the purpose of:

- Sharing information on the policy changes under consideration; and
- Offering the public an opportunity to provide comments on them.

During this time, over 7,800 comments were provided from over 2,400 individuals. This included:

- 1,971 comments regarding increasing the maximum rate from \$15 to \$18
- 2,075 comments regarding bringing weekend tolling to the entire ETL corridor
- 2,114 comments regarding modifying carpool requirements
- 1,664 “general feedback” comments



# I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting Online Open House

Based on a sampling of 600 of the 7,800+ comments, most people were generally unsupportive of the proposed changes.

The following key themes emerged:

- Strong opposition to the proposed rate increase / weekend tolling / carpool changes
- Fairness and equity concerns
- Skepticism that the higher maximum toll rate will improve performance
- Sentiment that if weekends are to be tolled, they should be at a reduced rate
- Sentiment that the HOV changes would add more confusion
- Skepticism that the HOV requirements will be properly enforced

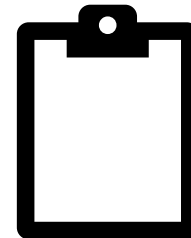
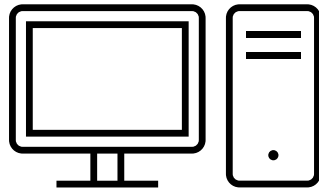
# I-405 & SR 167 Online Survey



# I-405 & SR 167 Rate Setting Online Survey

Hosted between November 18 and December 13

- Over 19,000 total engagements with over 16,500 completed surveys
- Over 8,200 comments provided
- Three primary questions were asked:
  - Level of support for increasing the maximum toll rate to \$18 (to support the 45-mph goal)
  - Level of support for extending weekend tolling to the I-405 ETLs
  - How would extending 3+ HOV requirements to the SR 167 HOT Lanes impact your usage of the ETLs
- Additional questions included usage patterns and demographic background



# Key Respondent Metrics – Usage

## Frequency of Use

- **Daily users:**
  - I-405: 18%
  - SR 167: 8%
- **Weekly users:**
  - I-405: 32%
  - SR 167: 15%
- **Monthly users:**
  - I-405: 24%
  - SR 167: 18%
- **A few times a year:**
  - I-405: 20%
  - SR 167: 38%
- **Do not use the ETLs:**
  - I-405: 6%
  - SR 167: 21%

## Day of the week\*

- **Weekday users:**
  - I-405: 94%
  - SR 167: 91%
- **Weekend users:**
  - I-405: 51%
  - SR 167: 58%

## Time of day\*

- **Morning peak:**
  - I-405: 48%
  - SR 167: 45%
- **Midday:**
  - I-405: 40%
  - SR 167: 38.5%
- **Afternoon peak:**
  - I-405: 63%
  - SR 167: 56%
- **Evening/night:**
  - I-405: 23.5%
  - SR 167: 24%
- **Varies:**
  - I-405: 29%
  - SR 167: 33%

## Primary Trip Purpose

- **Commuting:** 36%
- **Work or business activity (other than commuting):** 16.5%
- **Social / recreational activity:** 25%
- **Medical appointments:** 9%
- **Shopping or errands:** 7%
- **Other:** 7%

\* Only respondents who use the facility on a daily or weekly basis were asked which days of the week and times of the day they most often use it. Respondents were also allowed to make multiple selections to these questions.

# Key Respondent Metrics - Demographics

## Household Income

**11,700** respondents provided HH income information. Of these:

- **4%** under \$35,000
- **14%** \$35,000-\$75,000
- **37%** \$75,000-\$150,000
- **16%** \$150,000-\$200,000
- **29%** over \$200,000
- **Less than 10%** with a HH income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

## Race and Ethnicity

**11,363** respondents provided information on their racial background. Of these:

- **78%** identified as white
- **30%** people of color\*

In addition, **757** identified as Latino, Latina, Latinx or of Hispanic origin

## Place of Residence

**11,908** respondents provided valid zip code information. Of these:

- **94%** from the King, Pierce, or Snohomish County
- **6%** from other areas throughout Washington state
- **<1%** from outside of Washington state

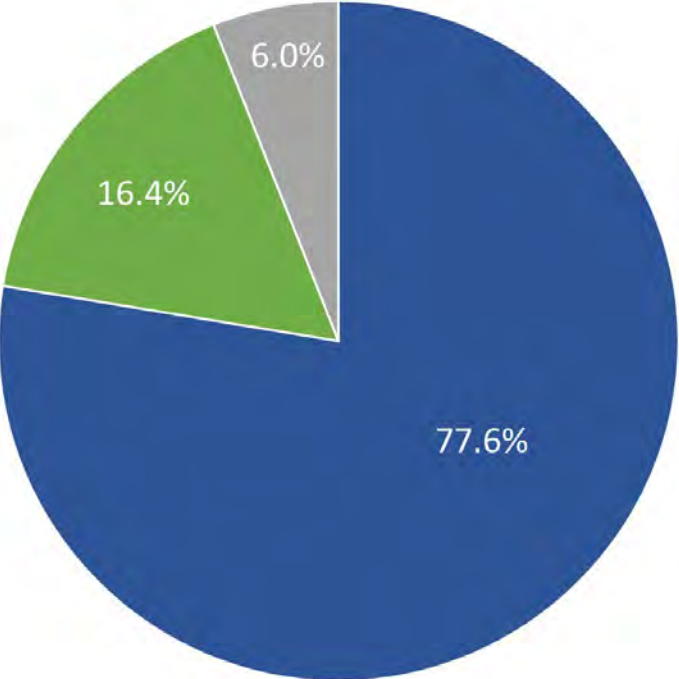
*\* People of color defined as those who self-identified as either American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Asian American, Black, African or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern or North African, or two or more races.*

# Survey Results

# Overall Results

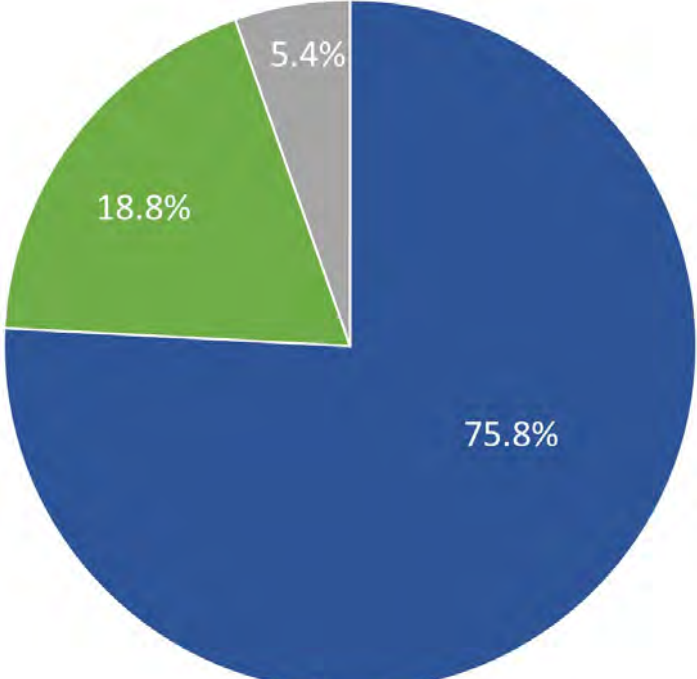
Level of Support for Increasing the Maximum Toll Rate to \$18

18,102 total votes



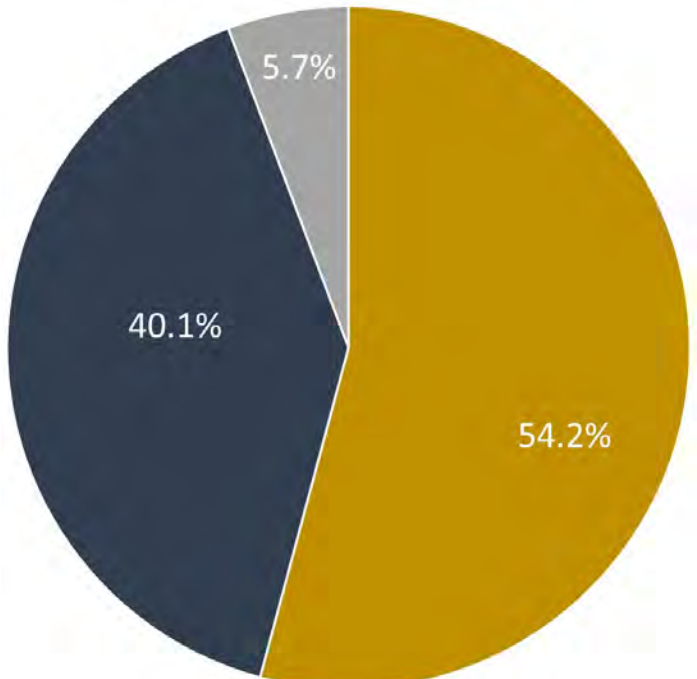
Level of Support for Extending weekend tolling to the I-405 ETLs

17,823 total votes



How Would Extending 3+ HOV Requirements to the SR 167 HOT Lanes Impact Your Usage of the ETLs

17,573 total votes



■ Net Opposed   ■ Net Support   ■ Neutral / not sure

■ Moderate or Significant Change  
 ■ No / Minimal Change  
 ■ Not Sure

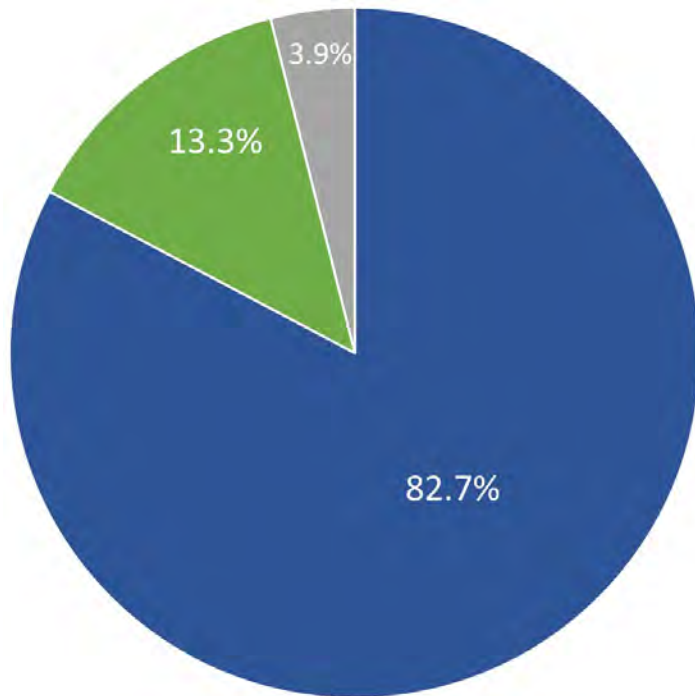
**Note:**  
 Net Opposed = "Strongly Oppose" + "Oppose" + "Somewhat Oppose"  
 Net Support = "Strongly Support" + "Support" + "Somewhat Support"



# Frequent User (daily or weekly) Results

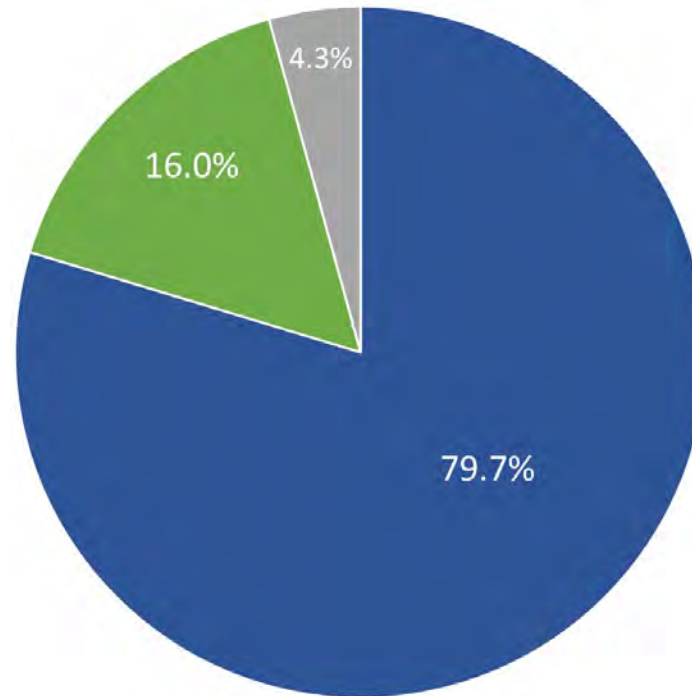
Level of Support for Increasing the Maximum Toll Rate to \$18

9,391 total votes



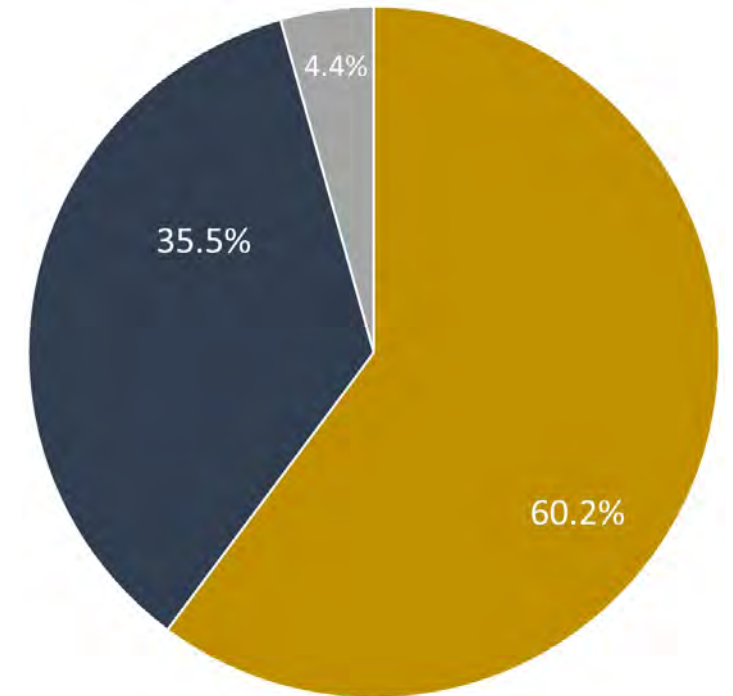
Level of Support for Extending weekend tolling to the I-405 ETLs

9,390 total votes



How Would Extending 3+ HOV Requirements to the SR 167 HOT Lanes Impact Your Usage of the ETLs

9,391 total votes



■ Net Opposed   
 ■ Net Support   
 ■ Neutral / not sure

■ Moderate or Significant Change  
■ No / Minimal Change  
■ Not Sure

**Note:**

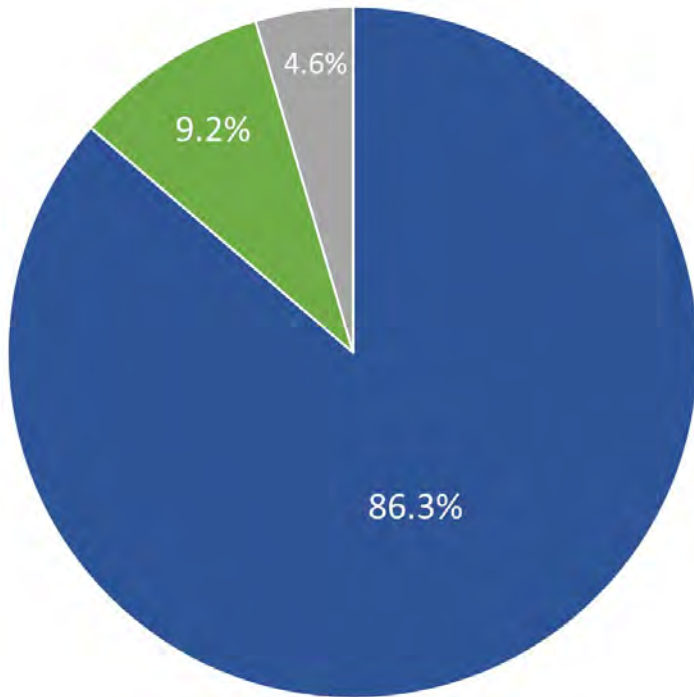
Net Opposed = "Strongly Oppose" + "Oppose" + "Somewhat Oppose"

Net Support = "Strongly Support" + "Support" + "Somewhat Support"

# Lower Income (HH income under \$75k) Results

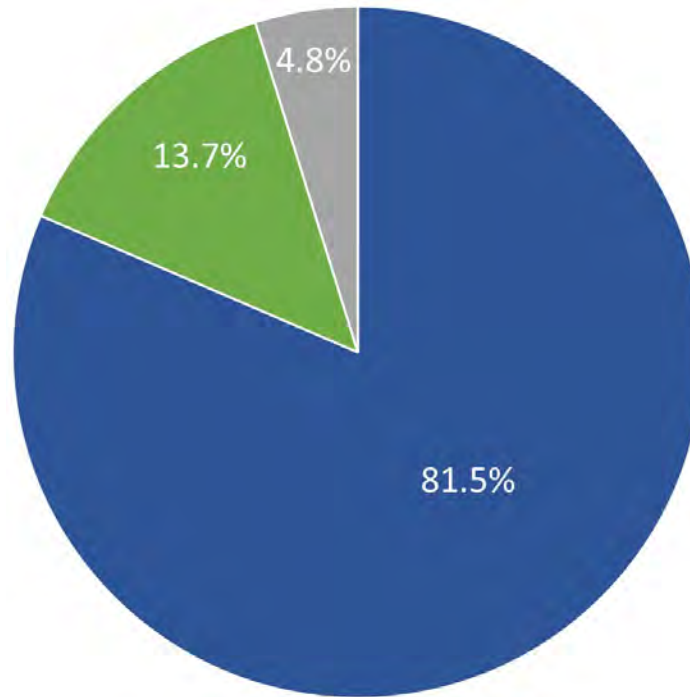
Level of Support for Increasing the Maximum Toll Rate to \$18

2,083 total votes



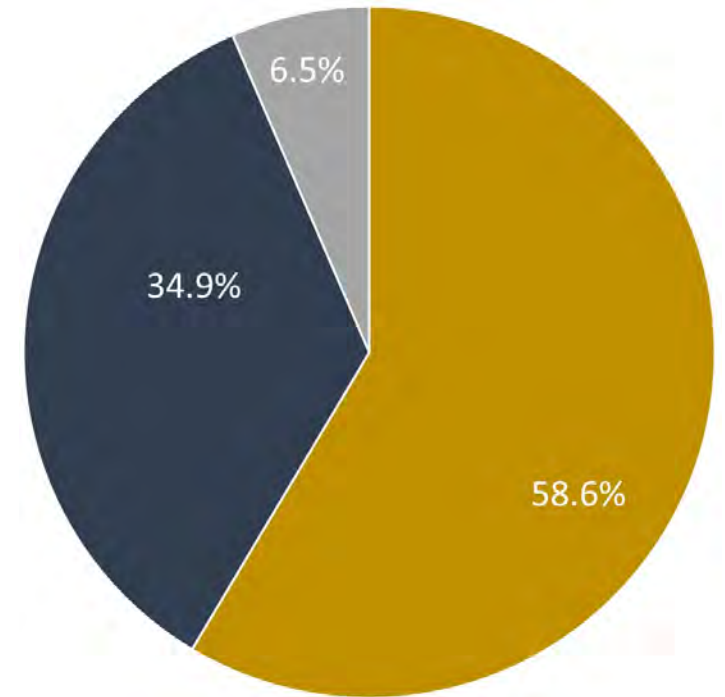
Level of Support for Extending weekend tolling to the I-405 ETLs

2,083 total votes



How Would Extending 3+ HOV Requirements to the SR 167 HOT Lanes Impact Your Usage of the ETLs

2,083 total votes



■ Net Opposed   
 ■ Net Support   
 ■ Neutral / not sure

■ Moderate or Significant Change  
■ No / Minimal Change  
■ Not Sure

**Note:**

Net Opposed = "Strongly Oppose" + "Oppose" + "Somewhat Oppose"

Net Support = "Strongly Support" + "Support" + "Somewhat Support"

# Written Comments From Respondents

**8,235 open-ended comments were received.** Based on a sampling of 1,000 comments, the following core themes emerged:

- Toll rates are too expensive, especially with high cost of living and high taxes in the area. Would like to see a reduced rate for low-income drivers and electric vehicles.
- 3+ HOV requirement is infeasible and inequitable.
- Skepticism that the funds will be used responsibly.
- Skepticism that the ETL rules will be properly enforced.
- Shift focus should to other traffic management solutions.
- Skepticism that the higher toll rates and HOV changes will help reduce congestion.
- ETLs should be eliminated or converted to HOV lanes.
- Weekends should be free on both I-405 and SR 167.
- ETLs should not be tolled if average speeds in the lanes fall below 45 mph.

# Recap of Results & Next Steps

## Recap of Results

- Most respondents do not support increasing the maximum toll rate or extending weekend tolling to I-405.
- About half of the respondents said that the potential change in HOV requirements would cause a moderate or significant change in their use of the ETLs.
- Frequent (daily or weekly) users and lower income respondents showed slightly greater opposition for increasing the maximum rate and extending weekend tolling to the I-405, and also anticipate a slightly greater impact to their commutes.
- The feedback received in the survey generally aligned with the feedback received in the Online Open House.

## Next Steps

- The Commission will receive updates from WSDOT and OST on scenario analysis in the coming months.
- Commission staff will continue to coordinate with WSDOT on public engagement and the rate setting schedule.

# Questions / Contact

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