

## Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee (EMAC) Meeting 26 Public Comments

<b>Date received</b>	11/27/2023
<b>Source</b>	Project inbox
<b>From</b>	Mary Peterson
<b>Subject</b>	EMAC Public Comment

Too many people rely on the only access to 205 from West Linn. We cannot afford MORE costs for our access to jobs, medical, caretakers, etc,

Stop the TOLLING on us all.

<b>Date received</b>	11/28/2023
<b>Source</b>	Project inbox
<b>From</b>	Nelle Keterson
<b>Subject</b>	A fairer idea EMAC

It is a good start to consider low income. What about the middle class? I still feel very strongly the tolls are inherently way too easy for the wealthy to feel no burden while the middle class is burden and low income have an out. If the top 1% earners pay the same toll as, say, the top 70% then that is wrong.

I am not against increased taxes for our country, state and counties. I feel that the tax must impact buying power as evenly as possible. Throwing the “low income” teaser at the middle class driver is very transparent attempt to justify taxing the top 1%, top 10%, top 60% the same toll. That is wrong and will not get my support. I have no idea what is considered low income. Lower 50%?

I do not drive on Eastern Oregon highways. I do believe it is every citizen’s duty to pay taxes to maintain these roads even if not using the roads.

The tax must be progressive, not regressive The tax must impact buying power as evenly as possible. So that a middle income person making maybe \$60-70,000.00 yearly is paying proportionally less than a person making \$1,000,000.00 yearly and definitely far less than the Kaiser CEO making \$1,500,000.00 MONTHLY.

I think spending tax dollars to build toll infrastructures so that ODOT can impose a very regressive tax is a total waste of money.

But if ODOT plans to force tolls on citizens then I have an idea to help make it more progressive. When we register our car the make and model is known. Rich people usually drive expensive cars- cars valued over even \$100,000.00. Use a different code for cars valued over \$100,000.00 and these drivers pay a

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EMAC Public Comment / January 31, 2022

huge toll to best match buying power. Cars blue book valued between \$90,000.00 pay a very substantial toll to match buying power. So forth reducing the cost of the toll to very little for cars blue book valued \$20,000.00 - \$30,000.00. Any car blue book valued less

\$20,000.00 has no toll tax. Code the sticker so the toll polls can read it and tax accordingly.

This could reduce negative impact on back roads as each economic bracket is paying evenly per buying power. A lot more middle class and working class drivers will have tolls so low searching for back roads isn't worth the effort.

Also, off topic, I think the kicker is a silly waste and did not vote for it. Money should be in a "rainy day" fund. Property taxes aren't fully fair, but at least rich people tend to own very expensive houses. Middle class tend to own middle range houses. Low (lower 40% income range) tend to own modest homes and the poor rent.

I have no children in school, but I voted to increase my property taxes for our schools. Do not confuse me as a voter dodging my tax duty. But make the tax fair to buying power.

I will vote no on a regressive tax and yes on a very progressive tax.