



Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee

Meeting #27

January 31, 2024



Welcome and Technical Info

- This meeting is being held via Zoom webinar and is also being live-streamed on YouTube.
- EMAC members are participating virtually.
- For all others watching virtually, video and chat are disabled, and attendees are muted.

What you say is part of the public record and open to public records requests through the Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law.

Centering Exercise



Working Together Agreements



EMAC Statement of Purpose



- Neighborhood health and safety
- Low-income
- Transit and multimodal

Providing input directly to the Oregon Transportation Commission, EMAC was convened in 2020 to ensure equitable toll project processes and outcomes.

Our Plan for Today

- Objectives, Introductions and Reflections
- EMAC 2024 - 2025 Work Plan
- RMPP Options Refinement and Comparison
- Toll Program Committee Updates
- Public Comments
- Going Forward

Objectives

- Share reflections on EMAC's work in 2023
- Explore and discuss EMAC's priorities for the 2024 -2025 Work Plan
- Update EMAC on the RMPP Options and process for input

Reflections 2023



- What is one thing that stood out for you in 2023?

EMAC 2024 – 2025 Work Plan

Jessica Stanton, Facilitator

Mandy Putney, ODOT

EMAC

Where the Work Happens

- **Full Meetings – in-person/hybrid at Ecotrust**
 - Public opportunities to share EMAC’s progress, questions, and recommendations as a full committee
- **Subcommittee Working Groups – virtual**
 - Opportunities for small groups of members to explore specific workstreams and technical topics
 - Attendance at each subcommittee meetings optional
 - Asking members to share interest in work streams so we can plan accordingly

What's Coming in 2024

2024 Workstreams

- Long-term Accountability
- Engagement
- Environmental (NEPA) Advising
- Draft Toll Rules and Low-Income Toll Program Implementation
- Revenue Allocation
- Diversity and Workforce

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Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee (EMAC) 2024 – 2025 Work Plan

EMAC's Purpose

Guide ODOT in turning Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and EMAC recommendations into commitments for sustainable, accountable equity processes and outcomes with the Oregon Toll Program.

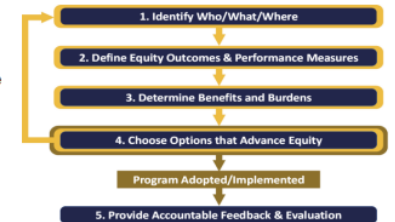
EMAC's Mission

EMAC was charged by the OTC to advise the OTC and ODOT in making decisions for equitable matters in connection with the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) and I-205 Toll Project, which includes:

- Addressing impacts on neighborhood health and safety from potential traffic diversion
- Increasing access to transit and multimodal alternatives
- Addressing impacts to people experiencing low incomes
- Supporting equitable engagement and the process of decision-making

EMAC Workflow Process

Following the iterative steps of the Oregon Toll Program's Equity Framework, the committee process includes a process of reviewing information, discussion, and recommendation development. These actions occur in multiple meeting cycles. All tasks do not result in formal published recommendations, as some recommendations are provided as comments made directly to toll project team members during meetings.



EMAC's Foundational Statements and Recommendations to the OTC for Shaping an Equitable Toll Program

EMAC presented "Recommendations for Shaping an Equitable Toll Program" to the OTC in July 2022. The report included Foundational Statements that serve as building blocks for the EMAC recommendations to inform commitments from ODOT and the OTC to advance equity through the Oregon Toll Program. To provide high-level consensus, the following Foundational Statements were developed by EMAC, in partnership with ODOT staff and unanimously supported by the OTC at their November 18, 2021, meeting:

FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

1. Provide enough investment to ensure that reliable, emissions-reducing, and a competitive range of transportation options (bike, walk, bus, carpool, vanpool, etc.) are provided to advance climate, safety, and mobility goals, and prioritize benefits to Equity Framework communities.
2. Climate and equity needs are connected, and solutions must be developed to address both at the same time. Further work needs to be done to support both congestion management and vehicle miles

Long-Term Accountability

Develop a proposed equity accountability structure to continuously measure, monitor, and facilitate input to the Oregon Toll Program.

2024 Expectations

- Advance recommendations for a long-term equitable accountability structure
- Stay informed on multimodal investments and RMPP complementary project lists

Key milestones and deliverables

- Deliver Accountability Workshop recommendations
- Hold ODOT-EMAC Accountability Workshop #2



Engagement

Ensure that community engagement processes are equitable and align with equity commitments made by ODOT.

2024 Expectations

- Advise and support public involvement tactics and relationship-building strategy
- Stay informed on the Public Involvement Plan's application to outreach efforts

Key milestones and deliverables

- Identify opportunities to apply Equity Framework to community engagement
- Advise on the RMPP Public Involvement Plan



Environmental (NEPA) Advising

Engage in the environmental and technical analysis for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) and the I-205 Project.

2024 Expectations

- Advise on using the Equity Framework as a tool for RMPP Options refinement process
- Stay informed on the I-205 Supplemental Environmental Assessment and RMPP Environmental Assessment

Key milestones and deliverables

- Provide input on the proposed equity metrics for RMPP Options refinement process
- Compare RMPP options using equity metrics
- Develop a formal comment for the I-205 Supplemental Environmental Assessment
- Develop a formal comment letter for the RMPP Environmental Assessment

Draft Toll Rules and Low-Income Toll Program Implementation

Advise ODOT's rulemaking process as well as education efforts to support low-income toll program enrollment.

2024 Expectations

- Provide input on the Draft Toll Rules and key components of the Low-Income Toll Program
- Advise on engagement strategies for higher-than-average low-income toll program enrollment

Key milestones and deliverables

- Develop formal comment on draft toll rules



Net Revenue Allocation

Advise ODOT on equity criteria for net revenue allocation as it applies to toll program equity process and outcomes.

2024 Expectations

- Advise on equity criteria via feedback to the Regional Toll Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Key milestones and deliverables

- Discuss draft net toll revenue equity criteria
- Provide input on RTAC's proposed revenue allocation framework



Diversity and Workforce

Advise ODOT on fulfilling and monitoring Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) commitments for workforce development and contracting of toll operations and projects funded by tolling.

2024 Expectations

- Advise on a plan for increasing the percentage of dollars spent on DBEs, Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), and Women Business Enterprises (WBE) that receive contracts to design, build, and operate the toll system and/or projects supported by toll revenue
- Advise on monitoring DBE commitments

Key milestones and deliverables

- Begin developing this workstream for 2025



Breakout Small Group Discussion



- Are these the work streams that EMAC needs to be engaged in 2024?
- Which work streams would you like to focus on in 2024? Pick 2-3.
- Is there anything missing from the Work Plan?



Breakout Group Logistics

- **In-Person:** Please separate into 2 groups according to the symbol on your name card.
- **Virtual:** Please join us in the separate Zoom meeting (see email from Nick Fazio).
- **General public:**
 - In-person: Please feel free to listen in on either group discussion.
 - **Virtual:** Please remain in the webinar until the session begins again.

Members are in breakout groups.
Thank you for your patience.

Breakout Group Recap



Summarize your group's answers to these questions: (2 min each)

- Are these the work streams that EMAC needs to be engaged in 2024?
- Which work streams would you like to focus on in 2024? Pick 2-3.
- Is there anything missing from the Work Plan?

Regional Mobility Pricing Project: Options Refinement Process

Kara Todd, WSP

RMPP Options Development: Process

Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis



Planning Phase (PEL) & NEPA Scoping



Options Refinement



Environmental Assessment



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Key Elements of the Proposed Action

Will not change based on options refinement:



Tolls based on location and time of day



Tolling all lanes of I-5 and I-205



Payment options for customers without accounts



Tolls based on a set schedule



Tolling I-5 and I-205 between the Columbia River and the Boone Bridge



A low-income toll program that will launch with the start of tolling



\$0 tolls overnight (9 p.m. to 5 a.m.)

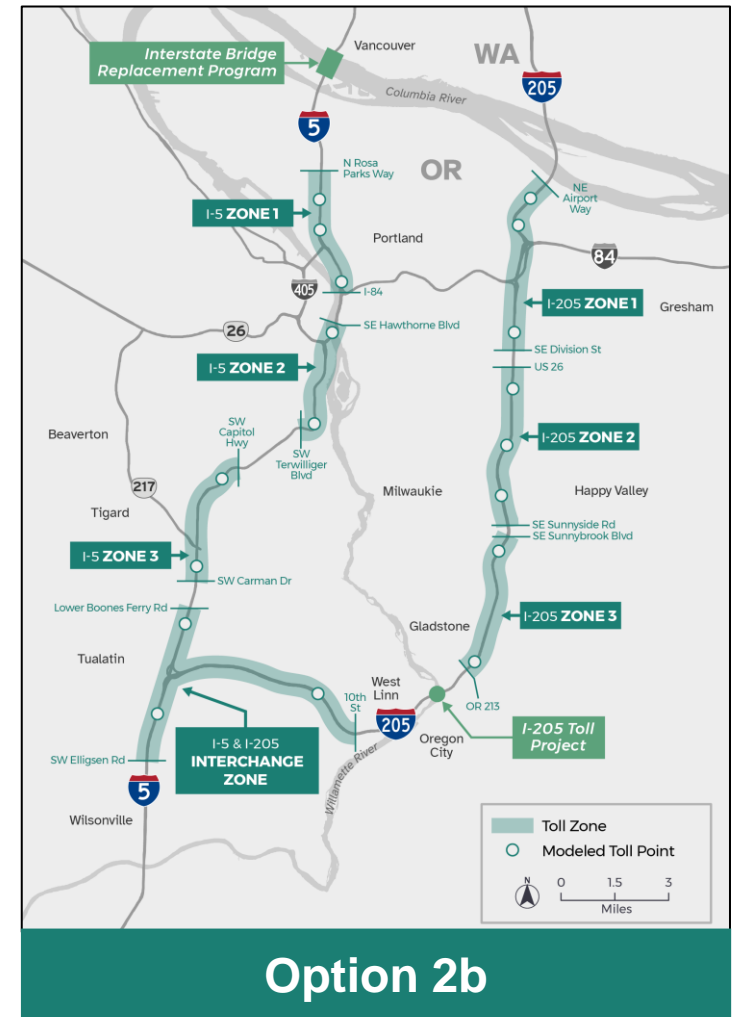
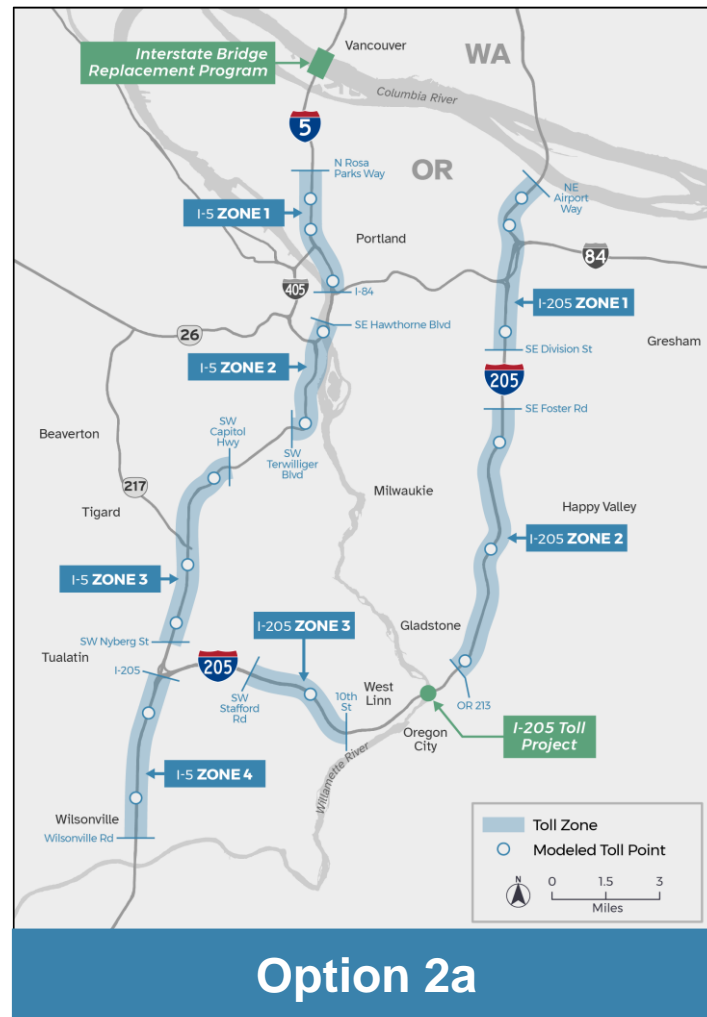


All-electronic collection system



Monitoring and adjusting toll rates after tolling begins

Current RMPP Design Options



Next Steps for RMPP Design Options

Further analyze and compare potential refinements of the options as we prepare to conduct the Environmental Assessment



- Gather more partner input on **potential refinements to toll point locations.**
- Refine criteria to better evaluate equity impacts.
- Provide more details on potential diversion as it relates to toll point locations.

Options Refinement Process

January/February 2024

Confirm Process and Seek Input

Clarify scope of process and criteria for analysis; collect partner ideas for refinements

March/April 2024

Analyze Refinements and Share Results

Test refinements; then share, discuss, and clarify results

May 2024

Confirm Proposed Action

Compile package of refinements for Proposed Action design options and confirm performance

Options Refinement Process

January/February 2024

Confirm Process and Seek Input



EMAC Involvement:

- Share feedback on equity criteria
- Interested members may join Environmental Advising subcommittee for more details on next steps

March/April 2024

Analyze Refinements and Share Results

EMAC Involvement:

- Subcommittee meetings to review evaluation results
- Share feedback on technical team's recommendations for potential refinements

May 2024

Confirm Proposed Action

EMAC Involvement:

- Refined design options will be shared during EMAC meeting
- Discuss next steps for additional evaluation or comparisons of refined options

Evaluation of Proposed Refinements


- Perform initial feasibility check (“pre-modeling assessment”) for all refinement requests received from Technical Workgroup
- Model refinements that pass pre-modeling assessment
- Based on the model results, the project team will develop a **recommendation for each refinement:**



Shows promise,
recommend
continued analysis



Potentially effective,
recommend
additional discussion
and analysis



Identified concerns,
do not recommend
continued analysis

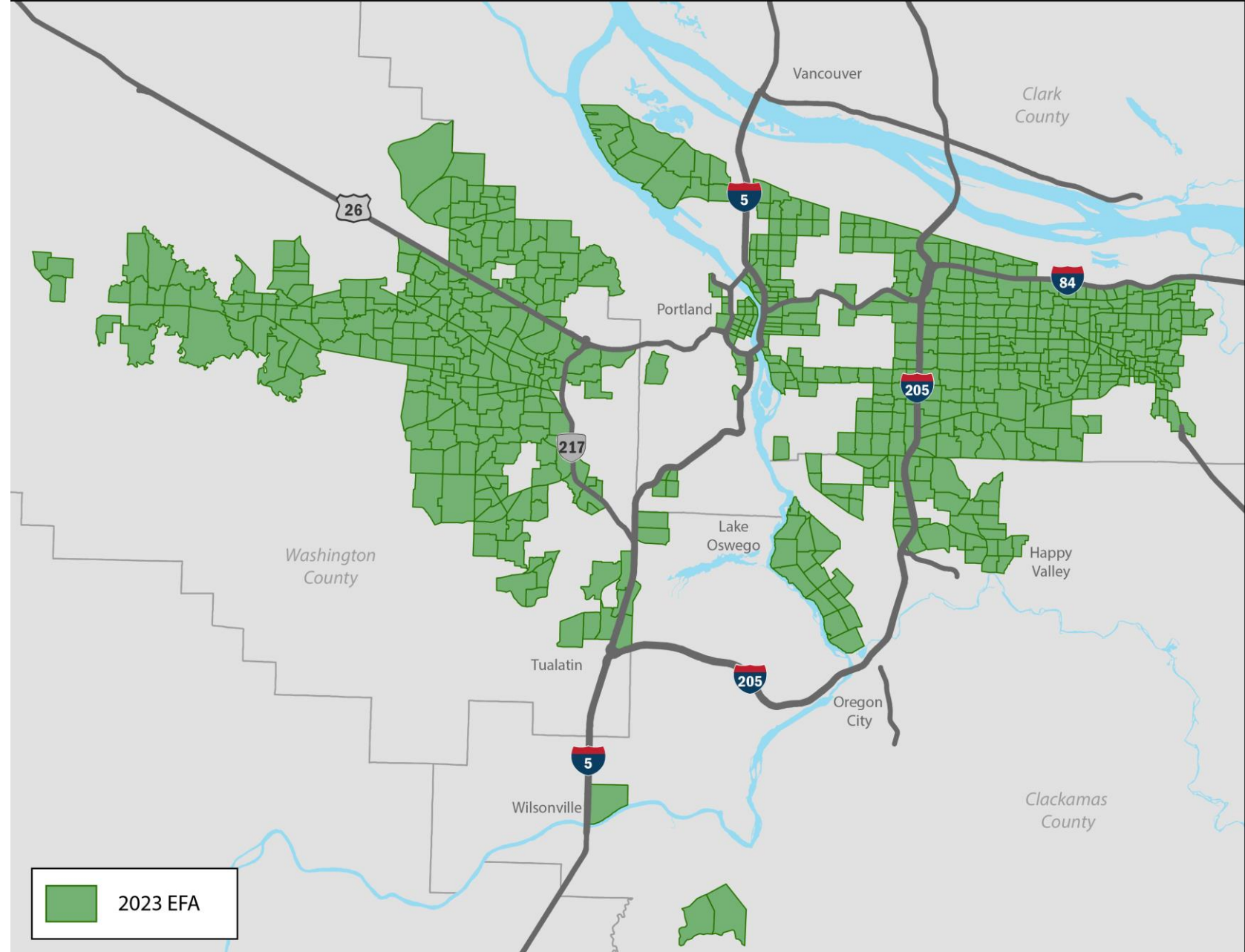
Background on Performance Metrics

Goal: Evaluate whether changing a toll point location improves the preliminary option, based on model output.

- Metrics align with project objectives and EMAC's Equity Framework.
 - *Does the option better achieve objectives with the refinement or without?*
- Options refinement process focused on relatively small changes to the preliminary options.
 - Most metrics focus on the area around the change/refinement to evaluate effects, comparing back to preliminary option.
- **Looking ahead:** In the Environmental Assessment, we will complete a more detailed analysis of project effects, incorporating additional data and tools.

Equity Focus Areas (EFAs)

- Defined by Metro
- Census tracts with high shares of the following populations compared to regional average:
 - People of Color
 - Limited English proficiency
 - Low-income (less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level)



Draft assumptions developed for 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update

Performance Metrics to Evaluate Proposed Refinements

Category	Performance Metric	Key Question
Equity: Community Health	VMT on Metro's High Injury Corridors – potential indicator of safety effects	Does the refinement decrease peak period volume on High Injury Corridors compared to the preliminary option?
	VMT on non-tolled roadways within Equity Focus Areas (EFAs) – potential indicator of safety and air quality effects	Does the refinement decrease peak period volume on non-tolled roadways within EFAs compared to the preliminary option?
Equity: Access to Tolled and Untolled Highway Segments	Proximity of non-tolled segments of I-5 and I-205 to EFAs	Does the refinement move the tolled segment farther from EFAs compared to the preliminary option?

Performance Metrics to Evaluate Proposed Refinements

Category	Performance Metric	Key Question
Congestion and Demand Management on I-5 and I-205	Share of VMT on I-5 and I-205 with that is over-capacity (V/C > 1.0)	Does the refinement reduce congestion on I-5 and I-205 compared to the preliminary option?
Gross Revenue Generation Potential	<i>Share</i> of trips on I-5 and I-205 that would pay a toll during peak hours	Does the refinement increase the <i>share</i> of I-5 and I-205 trips paying a toll compared to the preliminary option?
	<i>Number</i> of trips on I-5 and I-205 that would pay a toll during peak hours	Does the refinement increase the <i>number</i> of I-5 and I-205 trips paying a toll compared to the preliminary option?
Diversion	V/C on arterial roadways of concern that partner noted in refinement request	Does the refinement reduce congestion on arterial roadways of concern compared to the preliminary option?

Discussion



- How would you measure the effects of changes to toll locations on equity?
- Do you see this process as an opportunity to reduce impacts, advance equity, or both? If so, how?

Next Steps

- Please reach out if you have questions about the Options Refinement Process or additional feedback on the criteria discussed today
- Join the Environmental Advising subcommittee if you are interested in further discussion on the Options Refinement process
 - First meeting will be late February/early March (date will be shared via email)

**Toll Program Committee Updates
&
Public Comment**

Toll Program Committee Updates



James Paulson

Regional Toll Advisory Committee



Mandy Putney


Oregon Department of Transportation



Commissioner Alicia Chapman

Oregon Transportation Commission

Public Comment

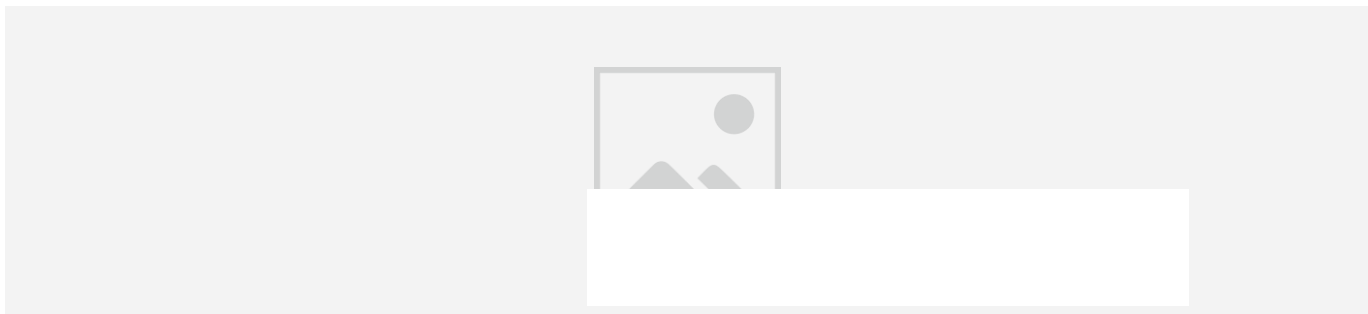
 We will call on you when it is your turn to speak. Please **raise your virtual hand** so the Project Team can unmute you when they call on you.

To provide comments at any time:

Email oregontolling@odot.oregon.gov with “EMAC Public Comment” in subject line to provide written comments.

Call 503-837-3536 and state “EMAC Public Comment” in your message to provide verbal comments.

Thank you for your participation.



2024 WTS Portland Rosa Parks Diversity Award

Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee Oregon Toll Program

**Portland Chapter Gala
Wednesday April 17, 2024**

Next Steps

- **Work plan next steps**
- **Future EMAC Meetings**
 - Meeting #28: March 13, 2024, in-person at Ecotrust
 - (2) Subcommittee work group meetings in February
- **Meeting evaluation**
- **Closing**



Urban Mobility
STRATEGY

THANK YOU!