

# I-205 Toll Project

## TRAFFIC EFFECTS OVERVIEW



### HOW DOES TOLLING MANAGE CONGESTION?

The main benefits of tolling are to ensure more reliable trips for all road users and to generate revenue for necessary safety and reliability projects, such as the I-205 Improvements Project. In addition, tolling could also change traffic patterns in ways that benefit the regional or local economy. For example, a more reliable and less congested interstate will allow goods and services to reach people locally and throughout the state.

### HOW ARE WE STUDYING TRAFFIC EFFECTS?

We are using Metro's **Regional Travel Demand Model** to assess changes in traffic over the course of the day. Early results suggest that after tolling begins, there may be fewer trips made by one person in one car. There may be an increase in carpools, transit use, biking, walking, and rolling. Early analysis also indicates that daily traffic on some local roads will see less traffic, while others may see an increase. We are currently analyzing **rerouting patterns** on the local streets and **50 intersections** based on time of day and level of service. With local jurisdictions, we will use this information to determine local impacts and benefits.

### WHAT IS DIVERSION?

There are two main types of diversion:

- When the number of vehicles on a road decline due to changes in trip time, destination, travel mode (e.g., taking the bus), or trip not being made (e.g., telework).
- When traffic increases on local roads because of congestion on a different route, which is known as rerouting. This type of diversion can affect neighborhood health and safety through more congestion, emissions, higher speeds, or higher potential for crashes.

### HOW IS ODOT ADDRESSING REROUTING?

**We know that rerouting already happens** because people use local streets to avoid the frequent congestion on I-205. With a toll and the completion of the I-205 Improvements Project, travel patterns are expected to change. Some people might opt to pay the toll to get a more reliable trip on I-205. However, many people who live in Clackamas County have raised questions and concerns about the burdens on neighborhoods and local governments who may see even more traffic if trips shift to local roads. We share these questions and concerns. That's why we are working over the next year to answer these questions and identify strategies to lessen negative impacts. Our work is still in progress, but we want to bring everyone along for the ride.

## IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS AND QUESTIONS

Diving into the local street network analysis and 50 intersections, we will be better able to answer the following questions and determine if there are significant impacts related to diversion:

- What time of day are we seeing more or less traffic?
- Who is being impacted (general population and specifically, currently and historically excluded and underserved populations)?
- How much longer or quicker is it for people to travel through the I-205 area?
- What types of vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) and trips (local, regional, etc.) are diverting?
- Are there changes to the tolling project than can lessen significant impacts?

## WHAT WILL ODOT DO ABOUT IMPACTS?

The project is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to reduce any significant negative impacts. Mitigation refers to measures to minimize or prevent significant, negative impacts.

Mitigation opportunities will be identified in mid-2022 in the I-205 Toll Project draft Environmental Assessment for public review. Mitigation commitments will be finalized in the Revised Environmental Assessment in late 2022 and in the federal decision document. We will identify strategies and measures to lessen impacts where significant negative rerouting is expected to happen, and we will continue to monitor diversion yearly after tolling is implemented.



**Impact example:** Increased traffic on a local street worsens congestion and delay at an intersection.

**Mitigation example:** Improved signal timing, construction of turn lanes, and/or bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can submit questions and comments at any time to [oregontolling@odot.state.or.us](mailto:oregontolling@odot.state.or.us). Follow us at the places below for more program updates and ways to get involved.

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