



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission


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**DATE:** April 27, 2023

**TO:** Oregon Transportation Commission



**FROM:** Kristopher W. Strickler  
Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item E– Urban Mobility Office Update

**Requested Action:**

Receive an update from the Urban Mobility Office on progress of core projects outlined in the Urban Mobility Strategy, including the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, I-205 Abernethy Bridge construction, the I-205 Toll Project and I-205 Improvements, and the Regional Mobility Pricing Project.

**Background:**

**I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project**

Pursuant to the on-going I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project's environmental phase, ODOT is actively coordinating with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the community, the City of Portland, and stakeholders on potential updates that address themes which emerged from the over 900 Supplemental Environmental Assessment public comments. Potential updates under consideration would address enhanced transportation access, circulation and safety on local streets and pathways for walking, biking, rolling, taking transit and driving. Updates will be incorporated into the Supplemental Environmental Assessment process, with an anticipated environmental decision from FHWA later in 2023.

ODOT continues to actively collaborate with the City of Portland and the project's Historic Albina Advisory Board (HAAB) on the process to define the future development scenarios for the project's highway cover area. Related, the City of Portland and Albina Vision Trust received an \$800,000 Reconnecting Community Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to envision community redevelopment options proximate to the Rose Quarter project area.

On September 9, 2021, the OTC directed ODOT to prepare a project funding plan as a condition to advance the revised highway cover design concept (Hybrid 3). On January 13, 2022, the Commission extended the deadline for such a report to a date when there is greater certainty about viable funding sources through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and project design following the completion of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment process. On September 9, 2021, the OTC also directed that on or before July 1, 2023, dedicated project funding be obtained or the OTC must determine that dedicated project funding is not likely to be obtained until after July 1, 2023, and extend the deadline for receiving funds. As full project funding is not yet obtained, ODOT will request an extension to this conditional deadline.

### **I-205 Abernethy Bridge Construction**

The I-205 Abernethy Bridge construction crews have continued to make great progress on the foundation and drilled shaft work. After successfully completing the first over-the-river shafts, the transition back to the land shafts has gone well as crews have now completed 20 of the 28 shafts for the project. Work on widening the existing lanes of I-205 in both directions has also commenced and will result in several temporary shifts in traffic at both bridge approaches for northbound and southbound. Construction impacts are regularly communicated with drivers, residents and partners via email, text and web updates.

### **I-205 Toll Project and I-205 Improvements**

The I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment (EA) was released for public comment on February 21, 2023, and completed its official public comment period on April 21, 2023. The public comment period was extended from 45-days to 60-days to give partners and the public more time to review the Environmental Assessment and technical materials. The EA presents an evaluation of the effects of implementing variable rate tolls at the Abernethy and Tualatin River Bridges and completing toll-funded improvements on I-205. The EA identifies project benefits and impacts and proposes mitigation measures to offset potential impacts. ODOT is now reviewing all comments received and will update the EA, as needed, through the preparation of a revised EA to be published later in 2023. A federal decision on the document is expected at the same time.

### **Regional Mobility Pricing Project**

Preparation of the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) Environmental Assessment, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, continues. The official scoping period concluded January 6, 2023, and comments have been summarized in an [engagement report](#)<sup>1</sup>. ODOT and FHWA continue to consider how the public comments received are informing the project; updates to the purpose and need statement and project description are in process. ODOT has shared study methods with partners and traffic analysis for the Environmental Assessment is underway. Analysis findings will be shared with partners and the public this summer, before release of the draft Environmental Assessment, currently anticipated in Fall 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> “Engagement Report: [www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/documents](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/documents).” Oregon Department of Transportation