



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

May 4, 2023

President Rob Wagner
900 Court Street NE, S-201
Salem, Oregon 97301

Speaker Dan Rayfield
900 Court Street NE, H-271
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
900 Court Street NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
900 Court Street NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear President Wagner, Speaker Rayfield, Co-Chair Frederick, and Co-Chair McLain,

Thank you for sharing your plans to establish a Special Subcommittee on Transportation Planning of the Joint Committee on Transportation. I appreciate your partnership in providing a sustainable, safe, and robust transportation system that supports the needs of all Oregonians.

Since taking office, I have heard consistently from stakeholders and residents that they need to understand more of the impacts and tradeoffs of tolling I-205 and I-5 before these tolls take effect. While tolling must remain a critical component of how our state moves forward with funding transportation infrastructure, I see value in taking the time necessary to ensure we are doing it right. To that end, I have directed the Oregon Department of Transportation to delay all toll collection until January 1, 2026.

This revised start date will allow time for my office, the Oregon Transportation Commission, and the legislative Subcommittee on Transportation Planning to receive more information on the agency's plans to mitigate diversion and address equity concerns. Specifically, I have asked for implementation reports to be delivered to my office for review by December 15, 2023.

House Bill 2017 (2017) and House Bill 3055 (2021) affirmed tolling as a critical funding source for many of the state's largest projects. Therefore, today's announcement will impact the overall financing plan for the state's Urban Mobility Strategy, and major projects will need to immediately adjust their schedules to align with the availability of resources. To inform next steps, I have asked Director Strickler to provide me with updated finance plans for projects within ODOT's Urban Mobility Strategy by July 1, 2023.

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In closing, I want to recognize the many state employees who have been working tirelessly to meet the project expectations set forth by legislature in 2017. We will need their focus, commitment, and passion to meet the collective challenges ahead more than ever before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" being more prominent than the last name "Kotek".

Governor Tina Kotek