

# Memorandum

<b>Date</b>	6/20/23
<b>To</b>	Regional Toll Advisory Committee Members
<b>From</b>	ODOT Project Team
<b>Subject</b>	RTAC Nexus Projects: Draft definition, screening criteria, and process for project selection

At the June 26 meeting of the Regional Toll Advisory Committee (RTAC), members will discuss key steps to develop a list of priority roadway, pedestrian, bicycle, or other projects to complement a tolling system in the Portland metropolitan area. A draft definition for “nexus” projects and possible selection criteria have been compiled to initiate discussion. The ideas contained were based on the following:

- RTAC adopted charter “factors” for consideration
- Adopted Public Transportation Strategy (PTS) screening criteria and process
- [ODOT Great Streets Program](#) selection criteria, which was suggested by an RTAC member
- Results of office hours and member feedback

## Nexus Project Definition

Nexus projects are roadway, bike, pedestrian or other mobility projects or programs that could complement a tolling system on I-5 and I-205 in the Portland metropolitan area by:

- Addressing an anticipated negative impact, OR improving access to public transportation, OR improving mobility options near the tolled highway, AND
- Providing access to opportunity or addressing transportation-related disparities and barriers experienced by the Toll Projects’ Equity Framework communities.<sup>1</sup>

## Selection Criteria Examples

- **Project readiness.** Included in regional transportation plan or a local plan, early planning conducted, public engagement conducted, and/or completeness of project design.
- **Safety.** Addresses a safety need.

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<sup>1</sup> See definition on page 1 of the [Equity Framework](#) adopted by the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee: people experiencing low-income or economic disadvantage; Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC); older adults and children; persons who speak non-English languages, especially those with limited English proficiency; persons living with a disability; and, other populations and communities historically excluded and underserved by transportation projects. *ODOT. Toll Projects’ Equity Framework. Updated December 3, 2020.*

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- **Traffic operations.** Improves reliability and supports congestion relief.
- **Urgency of need.** Addresses essential repair or provides a critical connection.
- **Climate.** Contributes to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction.
- **Transit.** Connects to/expands access to public transportation or complements a Public Transportation Strategy project and/or supportive service.
- **Benefits.** Provides benefits to the community, economy, and environment.
- **Ownership.** Proposer owns facility or has knowledge of owner support.
- **Geography.** Located within impacted corridor as defined by Oregon Highway Plan<sup>2</sup> or in a [Metro Mobility Corridor](#)
- **Funding.** Leverages existing or future funding opportunities (local, federal or other state).
- **Project cost.** Project development, construction and maintenance.

### **Next Steps for Project Selection**

- June 26 RTAC meeting: Finalize nexus definition; discuss and refine draft selection criteria and process
- July 24 RTAC meeting: Finalize selection criteria and process.
- July 31: ODOT project team distributes nexus project intake form to member agencies.
- September 4: Due date for submission of nexus projects.
- September 18 RTAC meeting: Discuss submitted projects based on selection criteria.
- October RTAC meeting: Refine nexus and PTS project list and determine next steps.

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<sup>2</sup> The “corridor,” defined as the immediate area of impact adjacent to the priced facility, generally within 1 mile or as defined through the project-specific analysis as being impacted by the project. Additionally, the corridor is limited to facilities that generally move traffic in the same directions. *Oregon Highway Plan – Policy Amendment 2022 (Tolling)*. Goal 6: *Tolling and Congestion Pricing*. Adopted January 12, 2023.