

I-205 Toll Project

Engagement Period eNews and News Release



SENT: FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2020

Subject: I-205 Toll Project comment period EXTENDED to Oct. 16

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OREGON TOLL PROGRAM

I-205 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

Your voice is needed. Visit our online open house to learn more and share your feedback.

Update: The I-205 Toll Project public comment period end date has been extended from Sept. 23 to Oct. 16, as Oregon health and safety officials respond to ongoing wildfires.

So far, 4,000 community members across the greater Portland area, including southwest Washington, have provided their comments. You can participate in the comment period by visiting our online open house in [Spanish](#) and [English](#). Watch a recording of our webinars on [Aug. 12](#), [Aug. 18](#), and [Aug. 20](#) to hear what others are asking about the toll project.

We want to hear from you so please share your thoughts by visiting our online open house, taking our survey, emailing the project team, or leaving a voicemail.

Have Your Say!

STAY INFORMED AND STAY SAFE ABOUT WILDFIRES

Visit the [Oregon wildfire information page](#) for the latest news. Visit [TripCheck.com](#) for 24/7 road information.

For more information and to sign up for email updates, please check out the [project website](#) or [email the project team](#).

Si desea obtener información sobre este proyecto traducida al español, sírvase llamar al 503-731-4128.

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The information in this document, and the public and agency input received, may be adopted or incorporated by reference into a future environmental review process to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.



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SENT: FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 2020

Subject: Oregon Toll Program: September 2020 Newsletter

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OREGON TOLL PROGRAM

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- [What does preliminary analysis of possible tolling concepts show?](#)



I-205 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

Your voice is needed. Visit our online open house to learn more and share your feedback.

Update: The I-205 Toll Project public comment period end date has been extended from Sept. 16 to Sept. 23, and may be extended further as Oregon state health and safety officials respond to ongoing wildfires.

So far, we've heard from thousands of people across the greater Portland area including southwest Washington. Community members are participating in the comment period by visiting our online open house in [Spanish](#) and [English](#). Watch a recording of our webinars on [Aug. 12](#), [Aug. 18](#), and [Aug. 20](#) to hear what others are asking about the toll project.

We want to hear from you, please share your thoughts by visiting our online open house, taking our survey, emailing the project team, or leaving a voicemail.

[Have Your Say!](#)

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY COMMENTS DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD?

Submit your comments today.



Recording community members' feedback at a Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis open house in 2018.

You may be saying to yourself, “ODOT is looking for me to share my feedback, but what actually happens to it? Does anyone read it?”

The answer is yes! Absolutely. The ODOT toll team includes a group of people with dedicated time to read, review and analyze each comment submitted during the comment period. We look at comments in the online survey, emails in the project inbox, and voicemails on our project hotline.

After the comment period closes, the toll team will write a comprehensive summary of all input shared by community members, agencies, jurisdictions and organizations. We’ll complete an in-depth report showing how many comments the community submitted, what the community said, and how that input will be used in the next phase of the project.

Your feedback, along with technical analysis, will help ODOT determine which toll alternatives to study during the I-205 Toll Project environmental review process and how to make the system work for Oregonians.

We want to hear from you! Tell us how tolls would work best for you. Share your thoughts on the project purpose, goals and objectives, and where tolls could start and stop. Visit our online open house in [Spanish](#) or [English](#) to learn more and share your feedback!

EQUITY AND MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aug. 26 meeting update.



The Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee met on Aug. 26, 2020.

To address the needs of the public, regional partners and elected officials, we’ve continued ongoing coordination with the [Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee](#).

During the [Aug. 26 meeting](#), committee members learned how toll revenue could be used for transportation benefits, the history of constructing I-205, and the areas that could be impacted by drivers avoiding a toll.

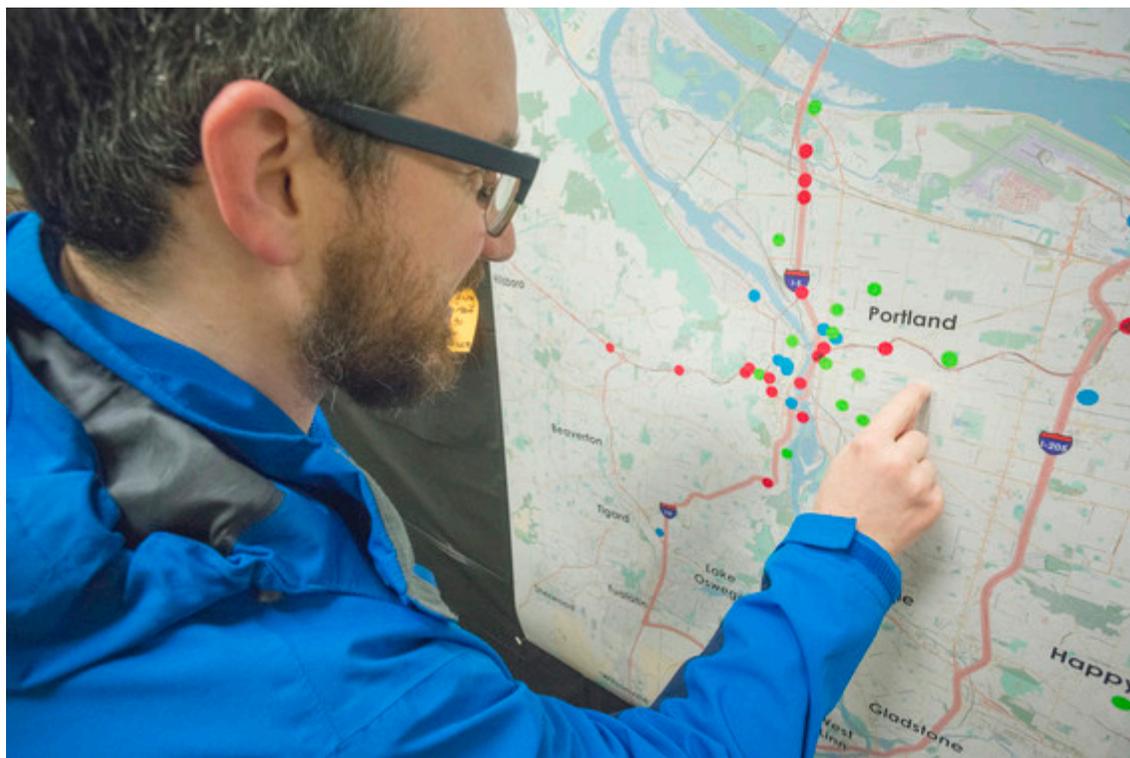
The committee asked questions about who is using the I-205 corridor today and what those trips are like. The Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee dug into the data asking where trips start and end, and the race, ethnicity and income of those users. The committee asked about available transit service.

Finally, the committee advanced the committee charter and discussed the importance of including perspectives from people experiencing disability. You can watch a video of the meeting [online](#).

The next Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee meeting will be virtual and is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 29. More information about the committee and how to provide public comment are available on the [project website](#).

WHAT DOES PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE TOLLING CONCEPTS SHOW?

An early look at diversion.



Community member participating in a Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis open house in 2018.

In July 2020, we published a draft Comparison of Screening Alternatives document, which is a preliminary, high-level review of five tolling concepts we're considering for the alternatives analysis.

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Based on input taken during the public comment period, a final group of alternatives may or may not include these five that were screened. You can review the [Executive Summary](#) of the document and the [full analysis](#) online.

One of the screening comparison measures for each of the alternatives was “diversion effects,” which was measured as changes in travel volume on various regional and community roadways near the I-205 alternatives.

Across alternatives, we found that:

- We would see fewer single occupant vehicle trips on I-205 than today and more high occupancy vehicle trips.
- Around the region, the data showed a small increase in transit trips and more trips made walking or by bicycle.
- We also found that traffic volume on some roads would increase due to people avoiding a toll on I-205. This happened more during off-peak hours.

We have been – and will continue --collaborating with technical staff from around the region through the project’s Regional Modeling Group to better understand diversion. Effects of diversion to a different route or travel mode are one of several measures we will consider when evaluating alternatives to study in greater detail during the environmental review.

For more information and to sign up for email updates, please check out the [project website](#) or [email the project team](#).

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SENT: TUESDAY, AUG. 11, 2020

Subject: Oregon Toll Program: August 2020 Newsletter

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OREGON TOLL PROGRAM

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- [Have your say: We need your input for toll options to improve I-205 travel!](#)
- [Modern tolling: No toll booths](#)
- [What "environmental review" means for the I-205 Toll Project](#)
- [Equity and transportation committee updates](#)
- [What we've been hearing](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY: WE NEED YOUR INPUT ON TOLL OPTIONS TO IMPROVE I-205 TRAVEL!

Join a webinar on Aug. 12, Aug. 18 and Aug. 20

The I-205 Toll Project would toll all lanes of I-205 at—or near—the Abernethy Bridge. Tolls could help pay for improvements along I-205 and the seismic work needed on the Abernethy Bridge. With a toll, some people may choose to drive at times when the toll is lower; or, they may choose to carpool, take transit, or use other options instead. The result? More reliable travel. Even a small shift in the number of drivers on the road can reduce travel times.

Our I-205 Toll Project public comment period runs 45 days, from Aug. 3 through Sept. 16, 2020. We will host online activities where you can ask questions, offer feedback, and learn about the project. Your feedback, along with the technical analysis, will help us determine which toll alternatives to study during the I-205 Toll Project environmental review process. Learn more about where tolls could start and stop and how the different options could pay for roadway improvements along the corridor and manage congestion.

Have your say!

[Get Started: Raise funds and improve travel ▶](#)

I-205 Toll Project

Thank you for participating in our open house! Even though it's hard to meet in person right now, we want to hear your ideas. We've been hard at work and want to share what we've learned about how tolls could improve travel on I-205. Please let us know what you think.



Want more information?

Attend one of three community webinars in August to learn about the project, ask questions and give comments to the project team. All three webinars will cover the same topics.

Webinar 1
Wednesday, August 12, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
(join via [Zoom](#) or [YouTube Live](#))

Webinar 2
Tuesday, August 18, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(join via [Zoom](#) or [YouTube Live](#))

Webinar 3
Thursday, August 20, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
(join via [Zoom](#) or [YouTube Live](#))

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We want to hear from you.

We want to hear your thoughts on the I-205 Toll Project at this early phase. Review the information in the following stations, then take our survey and give your ideas. The survey will be open through **September 16, 2020**.

An online engagement website features videos, links to technical documents and a survey to invite your comments.

You're invited to participate in any of the following ways:

- Visit our online engagement site and complete a survey during the comment period: [English site](#) and [Spanish site](#).
- Complete the online survey in [Russian](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Traditional Chinese](#) or [Simplified Chinese](#).
- [Join a webinar](#):
 - Wednesday, August 12, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, August 18, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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- Thursday, August 20, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Send the project an email: oregontolling@odot.state.or.us
- Leave a voicemail: 503-837-3536

[Read More Here](#)

MODERN TOLLING: NO TOLL BOOTHS



Modern toll systems require no stopping and no toll booths. Learn more by clicking on the image above.

[Video also available in Spanish.](#)

WHAT "ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW" MEANS FOR THE I-205 TOLL PROJECT

National Environmental Policy Act guides the process



The I-205 Toll Project environmental review process begins this summer.

We take the first step in a two-year process to study potential environmental impacts of the I-205 Toll Project this summer. The environmental review process will also help us identify ways to meet the project's [purpose](#) and [goals and objectives](#).

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that government agencies consider the impacts of a project to the natural, community, economic and cultural environment before final decisions are made. Public engagement is a critical part of the review process.

[Read More Here](#)

EQUITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committees continue to advise I-205 and I-5 Toll Projects



The Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee met July 28 to continue to advise the I-205 and I-5 Toll Projects.

Tolling is a new concept to most Oregonians. To address the needs of the public, regional partners and elected officials, we are committed to gathering feedback. Two advisory bodies are helping the project team consider public needs—the [Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee](#) and [Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation](#).

[Read More Here](#)

WHAT WE'VE BEEN HEARING

How will toll revenue be used?

During the 2017-18 Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis and continuing until today, the toll team heard many times that people who experience congestion or pay tolls also should experience the benefits of a more reliable trip.

To address this recommendation, the toll team is requesting the [Oregon Transportation Commission](#) make a policy decision on Aug. 13, 2020. ODOT Toll Program Director Lucinda Broussard will ask that toll revenues collected in a corridor be used in that same corridor to provide transportation benefits to the surrounding community and traveling public.

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SENT: MONDAY, AUG. 3, 2020

Subject: Comment period opens on using tolls to raise funds, improve travel on I-205

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NEWS RELEASE



COMMENT PERIOD OPENS ON USING TOLLS TO RAISE FUNDS, IMPROVE TRAVEL ON I-205

Online survey open Aug. 3 through Sept. 16

August 3, 2020

For more information, contact: Michelle Godfrey, michelle.d.godfrey@odot.state.or.us, 503-986-3903

PORTLAND -- ODOT launched an online survey Monday seeking public comment on five preliminary alternatives for tolls on Interstate 205 around the Abernethy Bridge.

The toll alternatives, released Monday, launch a federally required environmental review process and a 45-day period for public comment. These are the first steps that will lead to selection of a toll system in the corridor.

Each of the five alternatives would toll all lanes of I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213 to raise revenue and improve travel reliability. The revenue could help pay for highway improvements along the corridor.

"We know tolls on I-205 will be a big change for our community, which is why it's so important to share your opinions now," said Lucinda Broussard, ODOT Toll Program Director. "Your comments about how tolls affect you and your community are critical to inform how we add tolls to the highway and which alternatives to study in the next phase of analysis."

Before March 2020, an average of 100,000 vehicles traveled Interstate 205 every day in the corridor, leading to more than 6.5 hours of delay and costing our economy \$2 million each day. As the risks of COVID-19 are reduced, we expect a return of traffic congestion.

ODOT proposes all-electronic, variable-rate tolls to manage this congestion and generate revenue for needed transportation improvements to keep people moving into the future.

Tolls are one tool we will use to improve the transportation system. Tolling I-205 improves traffic as some drivers adjust their travel times to pay a lower toll and free up space on the highway, optimizing the system for all.

With no tollbooths, drivers will not stop to pay a toll. A transponder, a small sticker placed on the inside of the windshield, is read and connected to a pre-paid account. If a vehicle doesn't have a transponder, a camera captures the car's license plate, and the registered owner is billed. This keeps traffic flowing.

ODOT will study options for how best to reach individuals who lack access to prepay tolls.

From Aug. 3 through Sept. 16, 2020, ODOT will host activities to ask questions, offer feedback, and learn about the project. Public feedback will help determine which toll alternatives to study in the next steps of the I-205 toll project environmental review process.

To connect directly with project staff, learn more about the project and share feedback go to:

Online engagement site:

English: <http://oregonevents.org/openhouse/i205toll>

Spanish: <http://oregonevents.org/openhouse/i205toll-esp>

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Online survey form:

English: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020>

Vietnamese: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020-viet>

Spanish: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020-esp>

Chinese- simplified: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020-chi-simp>

Chinese -Traditional: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020-chi-trad>

Russian: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5678377/ODOT-I-205-Outreach-OOH-Summer-2020-russ>

Upcoming webinars:

Wednesday, August 12, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89143489336>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/QjiFsa4fXOw>

Tuesday, August 18, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84262854127>

YouTube: https://youtu.be/vl5S4NF6_Jw

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88524631481>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OkRqujmcHU>

Project email: oregontolling@odot.state.or.us

Project voicemail: 503-837-3536

Background

In 2022, the Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with ODOT, will decide which alternative to implement based on the analysis conducted, existing policy and guidance, and community and stakeholder feedback. This decision, identifying the placement of gantries will assist with setting up the toll system. Tolls could begin on I-205 as early as 2023.

The goal of the I-5 and I-205 Toll Projects is to manage congestion and generate revenue to fund bottleneck relief projects, as directed by the Oregon Legislature in 2017. House Bill 2017 committed hundreds of millions of dollars to address congestion and improve the transportation system in the Portland metro area and around the state, including freight rail projects, transit and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The bill also directed the Oregon Transportation Commission to implement congestion pricing, also known as variable rate tolls, on I-5 and I-205 in the Portland metro region to provide additional traffic management tools to further manage congestion.

In 2018, ODOT completed the [Portland Metro Area Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis](#) to study how and where congestion pricing could be applied. Community members shared their opinions as part

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of the feasibility study, emphasizing a need for improved transit and other transportation choices, and that ODOT should work to reduce negative effects to neighborhoods from people who choose to avoid tolls.

The community also emphasized that tolls should avoid negatively affecting low-income communities and communities of color. ODOT staff are addressing these equity concerns by:

- Convening a group of national and regional leaders in equity to advise the project team and ODOT.
- Conducting an equity training for project staff.
- Drafting an equity framework to guide project decisions and engagement to create better transportation solutions for historically underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Coordinating with community engagement liaisons to reach and hear from underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Convening an [Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee](#).

More information is available at OregonTolling.org.

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