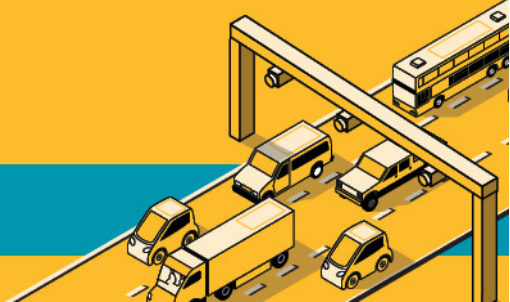


I-205 Toll Project

MEMORANDUM



Date Nov. 16, 2020
To Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee Members
From Hannah Williams, Oregon Toll Program Community Engagement Coordinator
Subject Changes to Planned Activities for I-205 Toll Project Early Engagement
CC Lucinda Broussard, Oregon Toll Program Director

This memo serves to provide an overview of changes we made to the planned activities outlined in the I-205 Toll Project Summer 2020 Engagement Plan (attached). The Project Team originally prepared this plan in early 2020. We made these changes to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the wildfires in our communities in September. We will provide a comment report with additional details about the outcomes of the engagement period.

Public Comment Period

We shifted the start of the public comment period to Aug. 3 from July 13, 2020. In-person gatherings were prohibited because of COVID-19. Due to this restriction, we needed additional time to plan engagement for the comment period that was entirely virtual. In addition, we extended the original 45-day comment period to Oct. 16, 2020, because wildfires were burning in Clackamas County. These wildfires directly affected people who rely on I-205 as well as the local jurisdictions who had interest in commenting on the project.

Discussion Groups

Before March 2020, we planned to work with community liaisons to host a series of six multi-lingual discussion groups with community members to engage in conversation about the project. We planned to provide incentives to compensate participants. We postponed the discussion groups until a later time due to the ongoing pandemic and associated public health risk. In addition, ODOT's policy on incentives for participants is under revision. Therefore, we could not offer participants compensation for their time. The Project Team views incentives as an essential component of discussion groups.

Community Engagement Liaisons

Because discussion groups were not possible, we increased our reliance on community liaisons to reach communities that historically or currently have been underrepresented or underserved with respect to transportation projects. We had nine liaisons working in the community to distribute information to their networks and encourage input via the online survey.

Spanish Language Outreach

Midway through the public comment period, we determined that survey participation by people who speak Spanish as their primary language didn't meet our objective. To address this,

Memo: Changes to Planned Activities for I-205 Toll Project Early Engagement

Date: Nov. 16, 2020

we produced an advertisement for Spanish radio (El Rey), added another Spanish-language community liaison, and devoted additional time and budget to Spanish-language social media advertising.