

# I-205 Toll Project | Fact Sheet



## The I-205 Toll Project is needed to complete the I-205 Improvements Project

Traffic on I-205 slows daily near Oregon City and West Linn. Congestion makes our days more challenging, costing us time and money. In fact, congestion is estimated to cost our region about \$2 million per day. Revenue from gas taxes can't keep up to fix Oregon's highways or reduce congestion.

*The I-205 Toll Project is a part of a comprehensive strategy to manage congestion in the Portland metro area, along with key investments to upgrade our infrastructure and improve travel times for all users.*

## I-205 Toll Project

Oregon is studying tolls to manage congestion and raise revenue to fix the bottleneck on I-205 by using variable-rate tolls<sup>1</sup> on the Abernethy and Tualatin River bridges. Toll prices would be higher at rush hour, a concept known as "congestion pricing." The earliest tolling could begin in 2024.

## I-205 Improvements Project and tolls

Construction of the first phase of the I-205 Improvements Project will begin in 2022 to make the Abernethy Bridge the first earthquake-ready highway bridge across the Willamette River. Revenue from the I-205 Toll Project would be used to fund construction of the future phases of the I-205 Improvements Project. Future phases will address the bottleneck caused by the last remaining two-lane section of I-205 and make seismic upgrades to other I-205 bridges. Toll revenue also will be used to pay back Phase 1A financing, pending a federal decision on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Without tolls and future roadway upgrades, the almost seven hours of daily congestion and safety risks will continue to increase as the region grows and more people use the highway. Existing diversion to local streets will also increase without action when I-205 has stop-and-go traffic.

<sup>1</sup> Variable-rate tolls are user fees that vary in amount based on certain conditions (e.g. time of day, day of the week, direction of travel). Variable-rate tolls can occur on a fixed schedule that is known to travelers.

## Benefits of tolling



Improved travel time and increased reliability



Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption



Sustainable funding for investments



Investments to advance equity



Under the proposed toll alternative, tolls will be charged at two locations: the Abernethy Bridge and the Tualatin River bridges.

## What's next?

An Environmental Assessment for the I-205 Toll Project will be published for public review and comment in spring 2022. The Environmental Assessment will describe the anticipated benefits and impacts of tolling to communities, traffic, revenue, and the natural environment, as well as potential actions or projects – called "mitigation" – to avoid, minimize, and offset negative impacts from tolling. Examples of mitigation strategies used in other areas with tolled roads include: enhanced transit service and traffic calming on local roads to deter rerouting.

## Timeline



The I-205 Improvements Project will be constructed in phases. Construction of Phase 1A will start in early summer 2022 and will end in 2025. The construction schedule for other phases of the project will be determined in fall 2021.

## Background

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2017, known as “Keep Oregon Moving.” The bill provided funding for transportation system improvements and directed the Oregon Transportation Commission to implement tolls on I-205 and I-5 in the greater Portland area. In 2018, ODOT led a feasibility study, which included both technical analysis and public input. ODOT now has two toll projects underway, the I-205 Toll Project and the Regional Mobility Pricing Project to manage traffic on I-5 and I-205 in a way that is equitable, addresses climate change, and provides funding for critical infrastructure and safety improvements.

## Equity is guiding our work

Equity is a priority for ODOT. Our goal is to create better solutions for those historically and currently excluded and underserved. The Toll Program’s **Equity Framework** will be applied as we conduct the review and continue to engage with stakeholders. ODOT holds monthly meetings with the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee. These meetings are open to the public. Learn more and read ODOT’s Equity Framework at [OregonTolling.org](http://OregonTolling.org).

## Stay involved



Make sure your voice is heard! Follow ODOT for program updates and ways to get involved. Questions and comments can be submitted at any time.

**Web:** [OregonTolling.org](http://OregonTolling.org) or [i205corridor.org](http://i205corridor.org)

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Nếu quý vị muốn thông tin về dự án này được dịch sang tiếng Việt, xin gọi 503-731-4128.

Если вы хотите чтобы информация об этом проекте была переведена на русский язык, пожалуйста, звоните по телефону 503-731-4128.

如果您想了解这个项目，我们有提供简体中文翻译，请致电：503-731-4128。

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.