

Regional Toll Advisory Committee

Meeting #3

Monday, December 5, 2022

Facilitator: David Kim (he/him)

Welcome and Technical Info

- This meeting is being hosted in person, via Zoom webinar and being live-streamed on YouTube.
- RTAC Members are participating virtually and in person.
- For all others watching virtually, video and chat are disabled, and attendees are muted.

What you say is part of the public record and open to public records requests through the Oregon Public Records and Meetings Law.

Welcome and Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Program Updates
- 3 Regional Mobility Pricing Project Concept
- 4 Toll Project & Program Delivery Schedule
- 5 Public Transportation Strategy
- 6 Revised RTAC Charter
- 7 Public Comment



Welcome!

David Kim, Facilitator

Kris Strickler, ODOT Director

Program Updates

Mandy Putney, ODOT

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Overview

- **Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) phase**
- **Writing and developing the Environmental Assessment (EA)** to identify benefits, impacts, and mitigation
- **Engaging people throughout** (Participating Agencies, Tribal governments, equity-focused groups, and the public)
- **Reaching a federal decision on the EA**
- **Developing a cooperative agreement** with Federal Highway Administration and US Department of Transportation

Mitigation

- Mitigation is a **term that is used in federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** review process to identify actions that are needed to address impacts of a project
- **If mitigation is identified, it will need to be delivered as a part of the project**
- **Funding could come from a range of sources, not limited to tolling**, but it cannot be removed from the project later

Oregon Toll Program—Coordination and Engagement Timeline (2017-2022)



	2017-2018	2019*	2020	2021	2022
Committee and Workgroup					
Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis Policy Advisory Committee	6				
Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation			7		
Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation + Toll Workgroup				5	
Regional Partner Agency Staff			24		
Regional Modeling Group			9		
Transit and Multimodal Working Group			9		
Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee (EMAC)			21		
EMAC Subcommittees			11		
Regional Toll Advisory Committee					3
C4 I-205 Tolling Diversion Subcommittee				12	
Public Outreach					
Public briefings and presentations	52		70	106	105
Events (tabling, webinars, workshops, in person open houses, in-person listening sessions)	9		4	3	25
Discussion and focus groups, stakeholder interviews	16		8	7	16
Online survey responses	2,586		4,307	6,503	12,114
Communications received (project inbox, phone calls)	2,146		428	1,100	1,425

*Programmed engagement paused in 2019 following the end of the Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis (2017-2018) and initial startup of the Oregon Toll Program (2019 through present).

Response to Community Input

- Minimizing impacts from I-205 rerouting and other concerns
- Developing a toll discount program for low-income drivers
- Continuing work on a strategy to enhance transit
- Additional and more focused stakeholder engagement
- Adjusted plans for regional tolling
- Linked I-205 tolling to I-205 improvements
- Prioritizing equity through technical analysis and approach



Discussion



Regional Mobility Pricing Project Concept

Josh Channell, Project Team

RTAC Key Question



Does the committee agree that the proposed action for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project aligns with state goals detailed in the Oregon Highway Plan and regional goals in the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan?

Discuss at meetings 4, 6, 10. Feedback expected at meeting 11 (October 2023)

Purpose of the Regional Mobility Pricing Project

Use congestion pricing on I-5 and I-205 to **reduce traffic congestion** on these facilities in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area in a manner that will **generate revenue for transportation system investments**.



Proposed Action

Congestion pricing on all lanes of I-5 and I-205 in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area.

Variable-rate tolls are being studied on I-5 between the Columbia River and the Boone Bridge in Wilsonville and on I-205 from the Columbia River to where I-205 intersects with I-5 in Tualatin.



Proposed Action



Toll rates based on a set schedule.

A set schedule allows drivers to determine the cost of their trip ahead of time to plan their travel.



Toll rates based on location and time of day.

The toll rate schedule would vary based on time of day and location, known as variable rate tolls.

Proposed Action



Drivers would pay a toll through an all-electronic collection system.

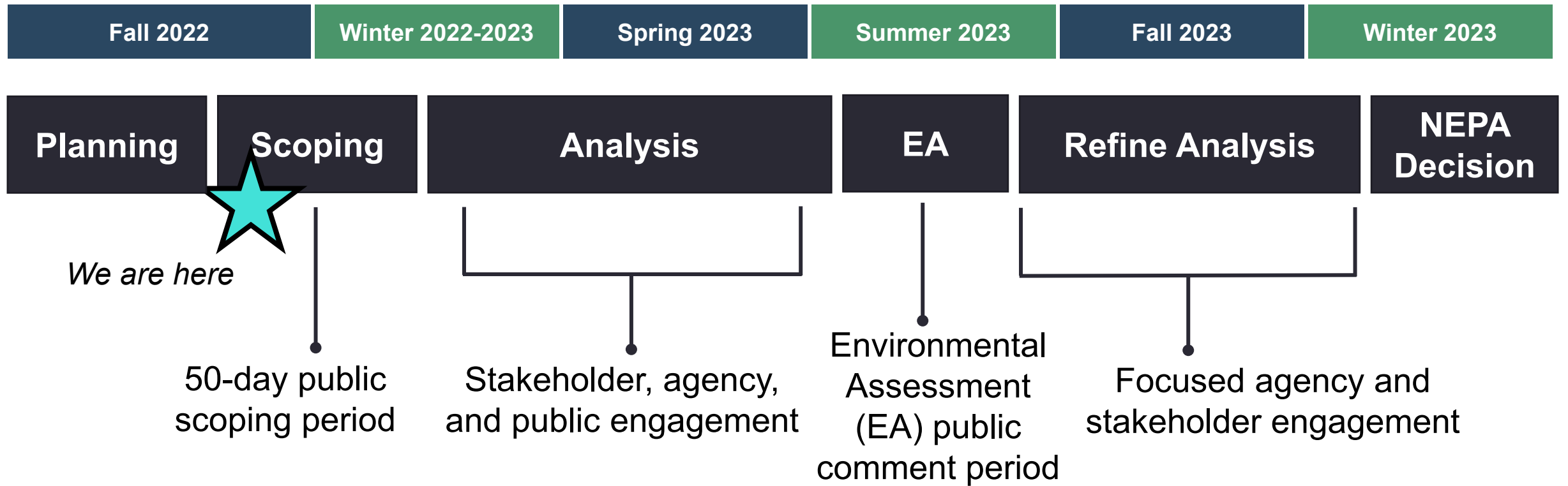
Drivers would not stop to pay a toll.



Toll rates would be monitored and adjusted after tolling begins.

Rates adopted by the Oregon Transportation Commission would be monitored and adjusted based on traffic data.

Environmental Process Timeline



Participating Agencies

FEDERAL AGENCIES

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- Federal Transit Administration, Region 10

STATE / REGIONAL AGENCIES

- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Oregon Department of Administrative Services Office of Economic Analysis
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

- Oregon Employment Department
- Metro
- Port of Portland
- Port of Vancouver
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
- TriMet
- C-TRAN

LOCAL AGENCIES

- Clackamas County
- Multnomah County
- Washington County
- City of Beaverton
- City of Canby
- City of Cornelius

- City of Gladstone
- City of Gresham
- City of Happy Valley
- City of Lake Oswego
- City of Milwaukie
- City of Oregon City
- City of Portland
- City of Sherwood
- City of Tigard
- City of Tualatin
- City of Vancouver
- City of West Linn
- City of Wilsonville/SMART
- City of Wood Village

How to Comment



Comment period closes on January 6, 2023



**ONLINE
COMMENT FORM**

<https://tinyurl.com/CongestionPricingScoping>



EMAIL

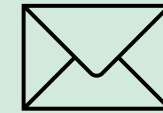
oregontolling@odot.oregon.gov

Please include
"Scoping Comment"
in the subject line.



VOICEMAIL

503-837-3536



MAIL

Oregon Department of
Transportation
Attn: Oregon Tolling Team
Scoping Comment
123 NW Flanders Street
Portland, Oregon, 97209

What type of input is needed?

Thinking about how this project might affect you, your community, and the environment, **are there other issues that you think we should study?**

Do you have any **suggested changes to the congestion pricing project** we are proposing?

Do you have **comments on why the project is needed** and what we hope to achieve?

Next Steps

- Input received during scoping will be considered prior to conducting the Environmental Assessment analyses
- Partners will have opportunities to review and discuss early results throughout the process
- The draft Environmental Assessment will be posted in 2023 for public review and comment
- Congestion pricing is planned to begin in late 2025



Questions?



Toll Project and Program Delivery Schedule

Mandy Putney, ODOT

David Kim, Facilitator

RTAC Key Question

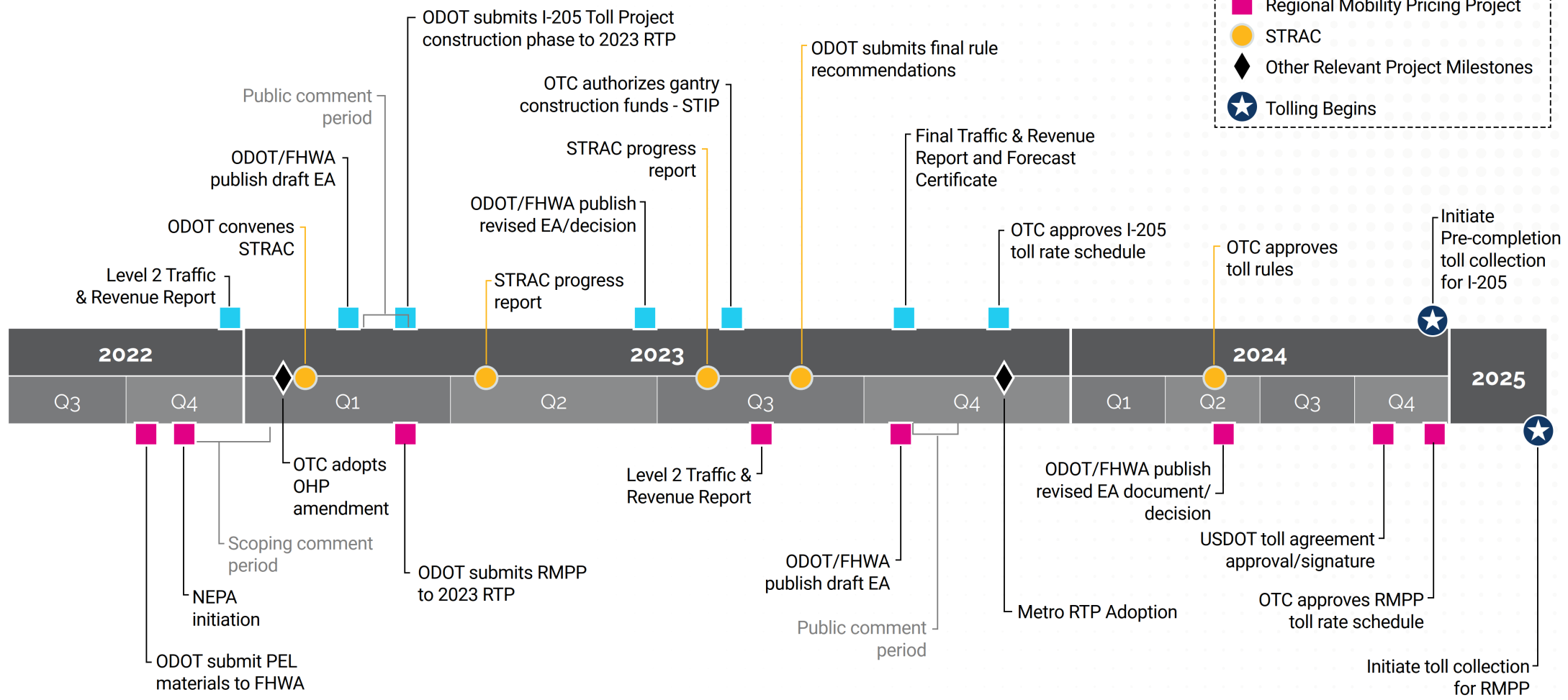


What opportunities exist to accelerate the schedule for delivery of the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) to reduce the implementation gap between RMPP and the I-205 Toll Project?

Discussion today. Feedback expected at meeting 4 (January 2023).

Legend:

- I-205 Toll Project
- Regional Mobility Pricing Project
- STRAC
- ◆ Other Relevant Project Milestones
- ★ Tolling Begins



ACRONYMS

EA Environmental Assessment
FHWA Federal Highway Administration
NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
ODOT Oregon Department of Transportation

OHP Oregon Highway Plan
OTC Oregon Transportation Commission
PEL Planning and Environment Linkages
RMPP Regional Mobility Pricing Project

RTP Regional Transportation Plan
STIP State Transportation Improvement Program
STRAC Statewide Rulemaking Advisory Committee
USDOT United States Department of Transportation

Discussion



Public Transportation Strategy for the Portland Metropolitan Area

Karyn Criswell, ODOT

Mandy Putney, ODOT

RTAC Key Question



What partnerships and resources should ODOT and local public transportation providers pursue to make public transportation and multimodal travel a viable alternative to driving on I-5 and I-205?

*Discussion at meetings 5, 6, and 7.
Feedback expected meeting 8 (June 2023)*

Draft Purpose

Establish a Public Transportation Strategy for the Portland Metropolitan Area and SW Washington that identifies **near-term and longer-term projects and services that are complementary components of a congestion pricing system on I-5 and I-205** that best contribute to regional traffic congestion relief and realize regional and state equity and climate goals.



Engagement - Stakeholders

Initial regional partner discussions occurred from October to November 2022

- City of Portland
- City of Sandy (Sandy Area Metro)
- City of Vancouver
- Clackamas County
- C-TRAN
- Interstate Bridge Replacement Team
- Metro
- Multnomah County
- Ride Connection
- The Street Trust, Oregon Environmental Council, 1000 Friends of Oregon
- South Clackamas Transportation District
- South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART)
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (SW RTC)
- Transit and Multimodal Work Group
- TriMet
- Washington County
- Washington State Department of Transportation

Engagement – Key Takeaways

- Public Transportation Strategy that complements tolling is needed for the region
- Collaboration and coordination between regional partners and efforts is critical
- Project management team should be established to co-convene and guide the effort
- Alignment with the Regional Transportation Plan update process is essential
- Equity is foundational to the Strategy purpose

Next Steps

- Update Strategy Work Plan to reflect partner input
- Meet with partners to reach agreement on:
 - Strategy Work Plan
 - Schedule
 - Project Management Team membership
- Initiate Project Management Team and work group meetings in early 2023

Discussion



Revised Charter

David Kim, Facilitator

Review Changes

- Based on written feedback and last month's discussion, a redlined charter was prepared with the following changes:
 - Updates to ODOT's role on the committee
 - Clarifications on the dual purposes of tolling and goals related to climate, safety, funding, equity and congestion reduction
 - Clarification around defining equity and meeting accessibility
 - Edits to the key guiding questions around revenue and short-term impacts

Charter Discussion

Do we generally accept moving forward with edits accepted in the redlined charter?



Public Comment



- We will start with those who are providing public comment in person. Then we will move to those who have raised their hands to comment virtually.



- We will call on you when it is your turn to speak. Please **raise your virtual hand** so the Project Team can unmute you when they call on you.

To provide comments at any time:

Email oregontolling@odot.oregon.gov with “RTAC Public Comment” in subject line to provide written comments.

Call 503-837-3536 and state “RTAC Public Comment” in your message to provide verbal comments.

Thank you for your participation.

Next Steps

- Next meeting: January 23
- Action items
- Complete meeting evaluation



Thank you!

David Kim

Regional Toll Advisory Committee Facilitator

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