

Statewide Toll Rulemaking Advisory Committee Meeting 5 Public Comments

Date received	05/15/2023
Source	Committee Inbox
From	Robert White
Subject	STRAC inquiry

I was reading through the May issue of the ODOT Urban Mobility Strategy Newsletter and came across several items of interest concerning the Statewide Toll Rate Advisory Committee (STRAC). Specifically, who wrote the Charter for the Committee; when was public input taken for the Charter; who approved the Charter; why is there no working stiff taxpayer representation on the Committee; and who decided and approved the "Out of Scope" items?

Also, will the May STRAC meeting be recorded and available on line for later viewing?

Thank you.

Date received	05/15/2023
Source	Committee Inbox
From	Jonathan Greenwood
Subject	STRAC Public Comment

I believe all tolling should be progressive. Low-income folks shouldn't have to pay, and people with higher incomes should pay more depending on income. This money in turn should go toward public transit and bike/walking infrastructure. Minimal amounts should go to maintaining roads, not widening them. We should also consider congestion tolling all our roads in bigger metro areas in the same progressive way to fund the same things.

Thank you,

Jonathan Greenwood

Memorandum

STRAC Public Comment / May 26, 2023

Date received	05/15/2023
Source	Committee Inbox
From	Pat Wright
Subject	Tolls

Absolutely no tolls anywhere. We paid for those roads once not ever again. All your doing is hurting the working population. Most workers do not have the luxury of adjusting work schedules. You will only accomplish over crowding the side streets creating longer commute times thus increasing automobile pollution. Wake up.

Sent from my iPad

Date received	05/18/2023
Source	Committee Inbox
From	Sue Kalt
Subject	STRAC Public Comment

We have already paid for the privilege of going to work. This is just another tax. It will NOT impact traffic congestion. You know what will? Population size. More people, more need for people to travel to work, appointments, running errands. This is beyond ridiculous.

How are people supposed to afford going to work? You already tax us with that unfair Payroll Transit Tax. Will that go away once you start the tolling? If not, are you not guilty of double taxation?

We should have the right to vote on whether we want to have toll roads. It is too easy for bureaucracies to mismanage funds and then, instead of engaging in responsible fiscal management, they come up with money-making schemes, such as tolling hard-working citizens. I call this feeding at the public trough. That is too easy. I say it is time for PBOT and ODOT to have full audits of where every PENNY is spent. Case in point, all these open houses, meetings that you have are a tremendous waste of money as well as people's time. You have already made up your mind and no amount of feedback and input from us lowly citizens will dissuade you from this draconian tactic. Time for PBOT and ODOT to tighten their belts -- same like we've had to in this time of extreme high inflation and shrinkflation.

To charge a transaction fee for those of us who do not want your hands in our bank accounts is pure evil and greed.

How much is that transponder?

I hate the word VARIABLE pricing --- it means I cannot budget properly when PBOT and ODOT raise fees and toll prices whenever they feel like it. How often will you be changing the toll prices? This is sheer GREED.

As for mass transit being an option . . . what funny weed are you smoking?!

M e m o r a n d u m

STRAC Public Comment / May 26, 2023

This is NOT a viable option. TRIMET is the absolute pits. I hate it and do not feel safe -- it is a homeless shelter on wheels. Transit stops are few and far between. I would not take TRIMET to work if I work late into the evening. Walking home from stops is not safe.

To illustrate

One of my friends who is moving out of Oregon, used to work in assisted living places. She had the evening shift which meant she did not get off work until 11 pm sometimes midnight. She did not have a car so she took Trimet -- Max and a bus. Several times coming home at night between midnight and 1 am, she feared for her life. She was followed. Luckily on one occasion she was able to go to a gas station that was still open and call her friends to see if they could pick her up. One time as she was walking a car stopped and the person in the car demanded she get in. Luckily she was able to turn around and walk and hide in the opposite direction and call one of her friends to come and get her (friends with cars).

This is your option? How cruel and insensitive are you? Would you want your daughter, your sister, your mother or your grandmother in that predicament? Mass transit is not safe and should not be used to bludgeon us into submission on some misguided idea that forcing us to take it will improve the quality of our air or reduce congestion. That is Fools Gold you are touting. You are just trying to figure out how to make a lot of money without having to be accountable for fiscal mismanagement .

I want to know the exact pricing -- none of this baloney of variable tolls. Those of us who will get statements mailed to us, should NOT be getting transaction fees on those bills. That's insane. I don't own a smart phone and unless you are willing to pay my WiFi bill, forget the online payment system. I do not trust your online systems of payment -- too easy for you to overcharge and too easy for others to steal our private and sensitive information --- lack of security on your end. Hackers are already gearing up to figure out ways of breaching your systems.

Online payments are not safe period. You came up with a plan without really analyzing all the variables that go into it -- especially the method of collection and payment systems. When I have to take Trimet on those rare occasions, I pay with cash. Even then, they are raising their rates. Ridiculous. They should be ashamed of themselves for raising their rates for horrible service.

Taking TRIMET is highly inefficient. After I get off work from the last job of the day, I can swing by the post office, run to the grocery store, and pick up things I need at a hardware store. Try and do that using TRIMET. You can't. How in the world would I get a bag of cement onto a bus while balancing my bag I carry for work? Are you people nuts?

Speaking of the post office. Do you realize we no longer have mailboxes in our neighborhoods? Imagine my surprise as I walked several blocks to where we used to have a mailbox. There was no mailbox on that corner. The nearest mailbox was a half mile away! So you know what I had to do? I had to get into my car (yes, a car) and drive to my nearest post office to mail my letters. Notice I did not say, hop onto TRIMET since that would have entailed at least two hours to do that task instead of 30 minutes.

TRANSPARENCY of ALL COSTS and INFORMATION

M e m o r a n d u m

STRAC Public Comment / May 26, 2023

Transponder

How does the transponder work

It's cost

FEES for processing payments -- all fees

TOLLING prices and how often you will be changing those rates

PAYMENT METHODS -- realize some people do not have access to smart phones, computers or Internet

REMOVING other taxes -- such as the PAYROLL TRANSIT TAX and gas taxes