

I-5 and I-205 Tolling Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee

Background

ODOT's tolling Application to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) describes congestion pricing as tolling designed to manage congestion on I-5 through central Portland, manage congestion on I-205 and provide revenue for congestion relief projects.

ODOT is developing an equity framework to advance the community mobility and equity priorities identified during the feasibility analysis and to be the foundation for project delivery. The framework will serve as a navigation tool to ensure tolling projects achieve equitable outcomes and implement an intentional and equitable engagement process that prioritizes historically underrepresented communities.

Role

ODOT recognizes that historically, communities of color and low-income communities have been significantly underrepresented in transportation planning processes.

To ensure equitable I-205 and I-5 tolling projects and processes, and to develop a framework that could be used if other tolling locations are evaluated in the future, ODOT is convening an Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee. This committee is a group of equity and mobility experts and advocates coming together to advise OTC and ODOT on how tolling on the freeway system, in combination with other transportation strategies, can include benefits for populations that have historically been marginalized or burdened by transportation projects.

In providing input to the OTC, the Committee shall consider needs and opportunities for achieving community mobility and equity priorities as part of tolling implementation. Currently, tolling is being considered at location on the I-5 and I-205 corridors, but the work of the Committee is expected to inform future conversations that likely involve other corridors and locations. The Committee will inform the equity foundation of the projects, including guidelines, strategies, and processes.

The Committee shall advise the OTC by:

- Supporting ODOT in development and implementation of an equity framework to guide project development and public engagement
- Providing input to ODOT at the start of the technical and environmental review process to ensure project development is grounded in the equity framework, including the development and refinement of performance measures to evaluate alternatives for I-205 and I-5 tolling
- Providing input on mobility and equity strategies that should be considered as tolling projects are developed, including:
 - Availability of transit and other transportation options

Attachment 1

- Transportation needs of, and benefits for, people of color and people with low-incomes, limited English proficiency or disabilities that live near or travel through the project area
- Better understanding of neighborhood benefits and impacts for the communities near the tolled facilities (e.g. changes to cut-through traffic, pedestrian and bicycle options, transit access)
- Developing an equitable engagement plan that will result in ongoing input and participation from communities that have been historically underrepresented in transportation planning
- Supporting the implementation of the equitable engagement plan by hosting or cohosting meetings, events and/or other activities as determined by the engagement plan

The Committee members will provide an important link in regional public involvement and education by informing and assisting with outreach to their constituents and communities. Members will help to identify stakeholders and interest groups within their respective communities and networks, and help facilitate contact and information sharing with those groups and individuals.

Committee Composition

The Committee will be composed of approximately 15 members (non-elected) representing a variety of mobility and equity interests and perspectives in Oregon and SW Washington, including:

- Local agency equity representatives:
- Transit and transportation mobility and equity representatives
- Historically underserved community representatives
 - local neighborhoods
 - limited English proficiency
 - racial and social equity
 - differently abled communities
 - Shift workers, employees

The Committee will also include an ex officio member representing FHWA. An OTC member will be appointed as a liaison to the Committee.

Many committee members will likely be able to represent more than one interest. Members will not be expected to reach consensus, rather expression of a wide range and diversity of opinions will be sought throughout the process. Members will be appointed by the ODOT Director.

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