

Ms. Tammy Baney
Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
355 Capitol St. NE
MS 11
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Ms. Baney,

Oregon House Bill HB 2017, a major transportation bill, recently passed by the Oregon Legislature mandates the Oregon Transportation Commission seeks Federal Highway Administration approval to toll portions of I-5 and I-205, the only two bridge corridors crossing the Columbia River in the Metropolitan Area between S. W. Washington and the Metropolitan Region of Oregon.

The Regional Transportation Council is concerned that this will impose an unfair financial burden on the 70,000 citizens of Clark County who cross the Columbia River to work in Oregon every day. This burden will be in addition to the nearly 10% of their income that is paid to Oregon State Income Tax. Additionally, the tolling revenue collected is not planned to be used for improving either highway performance or improving the bridges for greater capacity.

This Bi-State Area which includes Southwest Washington and the Portland Metropolitan area is governed, in part, by the joint Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). The RTPO is charged with the responsibility of developing cooperation and coordination between the regional partners and for the joint, effective, and *equitable* planning for transportation. That process has not occurred in this matter of imposing tolls.

Please consider alternatives.

Sincerely,

Regional Transportation Council