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## 2nd Value Pricing Committee meeting set for Dec. 7

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Dec. 1, 2017

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### Second Value Pricing Committee meeting set for Dec. 7 in Portland

The Value Pricing Policy Advisory Committee will hold its second meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7 as it considers concepts for reducing congestion on Interstates 5 and 205 in the Portland area.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Oregon Department of Transportation, 123 N.W. Flanders St., in Portland. Committee meetings are open to all and will include opportunities for public comment.

The advisory committee guides the development of a value pricing recommendation on Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, from the state line to where the highways meet south of Tualatin. The committee's recommendation will be submitted to the Oregon Transportation Commission. The OTC, the tolling authority in Oregon, will submit its value pricing proposal to the Federal Highway Administration for approval.

The Oregon Legislature this year approved HB 2017, Keep Oregon Moving, which directed the OTC to pursue value pricing on these corridors. The OTC formed the committee to evaluate options and consider public input in order to advise the OTC on the impacts of value pricing options on road users, the transportation system, and the community, economy and environment.

During the Thursday meeting, the advisory committee will:

- Review and consider for approval the draft committee charter and protocols
- Review and approve performance measures to be used for evaluating value pricing concepts
- Consider the approach for developing initial value pricing concepts

Value pricing, also known as congestion pricing, is a broad term covering an array of tolling options in which a higher price is set for driving on a road when demand is greater, usually in the morning and evening rush hours.

No decisions have been made about what type of value pricing practices will be recommended for the I-5/I-205 corridor. The Advisory Committee will consider different scenarios, evaluate the trade-off and advise the OTC.

Value pricing can include:

- Converting a carpool lane (also known as a high occupancy vehicle or HOV lane) to a high occupancy toll lane so non-carpoolers can choose to pay to use a faster lane
- Setting a variable toll on a new or converted highway lane
- Tolling lanes on an existing freeway

The goal of value pricing is to reduce congestion by encouraging some people to travel at less congested times or use alternate modes, and to provide users with a more reliable trip.

The 25-member Policy Advisory Committee includes representatives of the business community, equity and environmental justice interests, public transportation, environmental advocates and local governments in Oregon and Washington.

The committee will consider numerous factors in developing their recommendation to the OTC, including revenue and cost, traffic operations, diversion, transit service, economic and equity impacts, environmental impacts and consistency with federal and state laws.

The Dec. 7 meeting will be the second of six meetings to be held through June 2018.

Accommodations will be provided at the meeting to people with disabilities to participate. To request an accommodation, please call Susan Hanson at 503-731-3490 or call statewide relay at 7-1-1 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Accessible parking is available on the west side of the building along Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The Old Town/Chinatown MAX stop, serving the Red Line and Blue Line, is two blocks southeast of the ODOT offices. Bike parking is available nearby as well.

Agendas, a list of committee members, meeting materials and other resources can be found at the committee website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Get-Involved/Pages/Value-Pricing-Committee.aspx>. The website can also be used to sign up for email updates.

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