

Agenda Item VIII.

Major Project Funding Context

At a Glance:

- ◆ *Provide information about how major transportation infrastructure is funded based on historical and current conditions.*
- ◆ *Introduce trends on long-term project funding and policy considerations for future evaluation of regional project funding proposals*

Background

- ◆ Major roadway infrastructure has been funded by gas tax, regional levies and roadway tolling
- ◆ Construction of new or replacement of major highway infrastructure has been the most common application of tolling
- ◆ Recent programs have utilized dynamic or variable tolling to manage performance (usually with new capacity)

Tolling in the State of Washington

- ◆ Historically used for new or replacement bridges: Bridge of the Gods, Hood River Bridge, I-5 spans
- ◆ Recent Washington projects included variable tolls for new capacity projects and managing performance: SR-167 HOT lanes, SR-520 Bridge, I-405 Express lanes

Long Term Transportation Financing

- ◆ Long term funding for infrastructure show a decline in purchasing power and decline of fuel tax
- ◆ Factors include: increased fuel efficiency for vehicles, no increase in federal gas tax since 1993, and gas taxes not indexed to inflation
- ◆ Short term – gas tax is still the main revenue source for improvements, but states and regions are looking at new ways to fund and manage infrastructure

Regional Policy Considerations



Possible ideas to assess future funding proposals

- ◆ Consistency with RTP(s)
- ◆ User Equity
- ◆ System Performance Impacts and Benefits
- ◆ Project Funding

Next Steps

- ◆ Continue to evaluate current and long-term trends in major transportation project funding
- ◆ Monitor current proposals for new roadway funding programs within the RTC region and bi-state metropolitan area