REVENUE IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly 2009 Regular Session Legislative Revenue Office

Bill Number:SB 36-ARevenue Area:TransportationEconomist:Mazen MalikDate:2/26/09

Measure Description:

Authorizes Multnomah County to impose tolls on bridges, which span the Willamette River, under its jurisdictions, or that it operates and maintains under city of Portland jurisdictions.

Revenue Impact:

The revenue impact of this measure might occur at any of the future biennia. If tolling occurs, the amounts will vary based on which bridges are tolled, and the level those tolls are set. The impact will be to Multhomah County and a length of time based on the horizon that the toll will exist. No impact on the state revenues are expected.

Impact Explanation:

This measure is an enabling measure for Multnomah County to toll bridges. This is a local option that might not be practiced immediately, nor it might be implemented on all the bridges over the Willamette River, but it allows Multnomah County all these options. Eleven bridges currently span the Willamette River in Multnomah County. Two (Fremont and Markham) carry interstate highways; one carries a railroad; three (Ross Island, Steel, and St. Johns) carry state highways; and five (Broadway, Burnside, Morrison, Hawthorne, and Sellwood) are within the boundaries of the City of Portland but under the jurisdiction of Multnomah County. When and if these tolls are put in place, the level of revenue generated will depend on the fare/toll amount, the structure of the toll (fixed or variable), and for how long that toll will be in existence. It is likely that the county will bond for the costs of a new bridge or for rehabilitation or modernization of an existing bridge. Proceeds from the toll will then be used to pay off those bonds. It is also likely that the county can toll in order to cover the costs of maintenance of the bridge. That use will allow for using a different cost structure and different tolling requirements. Accordingly, the revenue impact of this measure to Multnomah County cannot be numerically isolated by amounts or periods.

Creates, Extends, or Expands Tax Expenditure:

Yes 🗌 No 🖂

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