

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Revenue
Vote:	9 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Boone, Edwards D., Gilman, Kahl, Weidner, Beyer
Nays:	Schaufler
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides authorization to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to establish and collect tolls for the use of bridges across the Willamette River that are under its jurisdiction or are operated and maintained by the county.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Comparison of tolling authority for state, Multnomah County and City of Portland
- Bridge maintenance needs
- Tolling as user fee for bridges
- Ability to pay toll electronically or with cash

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law specifies that the Department of Transportation is the road authority for all state highways, including interstate highways, while county governments are the road authorities for all county roads inside the boundaries of an incorporated city. There are currently eleven bridges that span the Willamette River in Multnomah County: two (Fremont and Markham) carry interstate highways; one carries a railroad; three (Steel, Ross Island 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 the county. The Sauvie Island Bridge, which crosses a portion of the Willamette River known as the Multnomah Channel, is also under county jurisdiction.

The Sellwood Bridge is the only direct link between Lake Oswego/southwest Portland and Milwaukie/southeast Portland. Plans are currently under development for improving or replacing the bridge. Senate Bill 36-A authorizes the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to levy tolls to cross any bridges across the Willamette River under the county's jurisdiction, as well as bridges operated and maintained by the county.