

Hello,

I wanted to submit my testimony in writing from last evening's Joint Committee on Transportation Special Subcommittee on Transportation Planning meeting – I wasn't able to fit everything I wanted to say into the two minutes available. Also below is a figure from ODOT showing the rates of fatal and serious-injury crashes on different types of roadways – from which I used numbers in my testimony.

Good Evening. Thank you for your service to our State, and Thank you for listening

If the gas tax had been indexed to inflation decades ago, we wouldn't be here – we wouldn't need to have this discussion because **ODOT would have the funding they need** to accomplish their important work and projects. – But here we are, spending millions and millions of taxpayer dollars talking about a tolling program that would have horrendous impacts.

Tolling would cause thousands and thousands of drivers to **divert** around the tolls off the freeways onto local roads – where they would have **six times the fatal/serious injury crash rates** on urban arterials and even more on rural roads. This tolling program would result in dozens more fatal and serious-injury crashes every year – do you want that blood on your hands?

And when the drivers divert onto local roads, they spew out far **more pollutants** with the starts and stops and hills and curves of smaller roadways. These diverting drivers will also be cutting through our **town centers and neighborhoods** and industrial areas, reducing our livability and further reducing the number of people who walk or bike.

The people who would have to pay the tolls include outsize proportions of **lower-income workers** who have to physically work at jobsites, and tolling hurts our desirability to current and future **employers**.

Looking at the cost of this program – millions and millions to discuss it and analyse it, hundreds of millions to build the infrastructure, and then a very high percentage to administer all the details of the program – it would take over a half-billion dollars (roughly the cost of Abernethy Bridge construction) – it would take the **first half-billion of our hard-earned dollars just to implement the program** – before ODOT would even get a single dollar of revenue for projects or maintenance.

If you value **safety** - If you value **climate** - If you value **community** - If you value **walkability** – If you value **equity** - If you value our **economy** - If you value efficient use of **taxpayer dollars** –

Then **stop this tolling fiasco in its tracks right now** – don't spend millions more on a conversation that has seriously eroded the people's trust in the state - and instead look to established funding mechanisms – like **adjusting the gas tax for the inflation** of recent decades and a corresponding **fee on electric vehicle charging or miles** – to fund ODOT's needs.

Thank you,

Mike McCarthy

TABLE V: 2020 Fatal & Serious Injury Highway Crash Rates and Casualty Rates

JURISDICTION AND FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION	MILES*	ANNUAL VEHICLE MILES*	FATAL & SERIOUS INJURY (INJ-A) CRASHES*	DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES*	FATAL & INJ-A CRASH RATE**	FATAL & INJ-A CASUALTY RATE**
URBAN HWY SYSTEM	1,141.30	10,341,826,489	376	418	3.64	4.04
Interstate Freeways	234.35	4,932,763,944	55	60	1.11	1.22
Other Fwys/Expressways	66.88	1,289,794,763	16	17	1.24	1.32
Non-Freeways (combined)	840.07	4,119,267,782	305	341	7.40	8.28
Other Principal Arterials	615.48	3,535,015,457	265	296	7.50	8.37
Minor Arterials	177.28	528,422,266	33	37	6.25	7.00
Urban Collectors	47.31	55,830,059	7	8	12.54	14.33
RURAL HWY SYSTEM	6,236.14	9,046,598,539	449	549	4.96	6.07
Interstate Freeways	495.22	3,534,144,150	40	47	1.13	1.33
Non-Freeways (combined)	5,740.92	5,512,454,389	409	502	7.42	9.11
Other Principal Arterials	2,640.97	3,898,723,552	244	301	6.26	7.72
Minor Arterials	1,791.15	1,314,647,700	115	143	8.75	10.88
Rural Major Collectors	1,272.62	296,635,232	49	57	16.52	19.22
Rural Minor Collectors	34.03	2,348,898	1	1	42.57	42.57
Rural Local	2.15	99,007	0	0	0.00	0.00

* Crash Rate Formula: (crashes*100 Million)/VMT; **Casualty Rate Formula: ((fatalities+serious injuries)*100 Million)/VMT

