

Tolling considerations - A major residual side affect

An important consideration regarding tolling on I-5 near Wilsonville is the impact tolling would have on adjacent towns and especially the community of Charbonneau.

Charbonneau is part of the city of Wilsonville, but is separated from the city by a river with no alternate route. Currently up to 95% of travel to and from Charbonneau use I-5. That means traffic to and from Charbonneau would have no option other than using the proposed tolled road. This would have an immediate negative affect on businesses within Charbonneau.

There are more than 1,000 workers that travel to and from Charbonneau for their job. The impact to the businesses at \$3 per toll could result in yearly tolls totaling over \$1,500,000 for their employees. That money would have to be made up by increased business in a portion of the city that because of tolling would have fewer customers and visitors. Many businesses would lose customers and thus revenue. Some may even go out of business if they cannot replace lost employees, lost customers or cover the increased cost of doing business. Other cities are less isolated, but they would still have similar problems retaining business.

The trickle down effect would be a less desirable community which would lower the number of home sales and the resultant home values. That would then lower the property taxes collected.

There are many alternative to raising funds for the transportation budget that are in place now, such as raising the registration fee on all automobiles, or raising the gas tax and miles driven tax. These alternatives would not require the multi-million dollar construction of gantry systems or the cost to operate the means to collect tolls.

For almost 50 years Charbonneau has paid gas taxes to support the highway system. Implementing new tolls is like a slap in the face to our community.

Jim Gibbons