

Public Comments, Joint Committee on Transportation Special, Subcommittee on Transportation Planning, Tolling, 12/14/2023/Wilsonville Meeting

I am against the tolling of I-5, I-205 and the associated bridges. To start with, the Charbonneau district of Wilsonville has no way to enter Wilsonville other than the I-5 Boone Bridge. My family lives in Wilsonville. We have extended family and friends south of the bridge. We're retired and may travel south a couple of times a week. The folks that live in Charbonneau probably travel in and out of Wilsonville 3 or 4 times a day. The planned tolls are unacceptable.

The locations required for the Toll facilities, are going to cause freeway drivers to divert to city and country roads, to go around them. The additional traffic will add road maintenance expenses to the local cities and counties in the area. The additional traffic will make the local streets, unsafe as they're not engineered for the additional traffic.

Where is the oversight for the taxes we already pay? ODOT says they need more money. I have heard from multiple sources that they will get more in gas tax returns this year, than any other year. Their Toll scheme costs 40% to 60% for administration fees alone. That's an unacceptable waste of our money. Everyone says increase the gas tax, for the money. Before we give you anymore, you need to become better stewards of what we give you. You folks in Salem seem to forget who you work for and who pays these taxes/fees. Who supplements our income?

We have an area wide public transportation system that doesn't work. Fix it before you force drivers off the road. TriMet has said they don't have the resources for increased ridership. Try to ride the train from Wilsonville to Portland. If you don't ride before 9:00 AM and after 4:30PM you have to take a bus. No trains were running in that period, last time I looked. ODOT is not planning any new lanes. The Boone Bridge was supposed to have 2 new lanes. One for cars and one for bicycles and pedestrians. ODOT removed them. How about car pool lanes? How about a pay to use express lane in busy times? Why don't we look at California for something other than ideas to get more taxes? Tolls won't force us out of our cars. There's no alternative.

If things are left to go as they are, we are going to have Tolls, crowded interstates, probably tolls on the state highways, beat up city and country roads. The fuel taxes will go up to feed the need for more taxes. I've heard the term VAT whispered in some of these meetings. We'll have much higher living expenses as the prices of goods and services go up due to the added costs. The only winners are ODOT, State coffers and the folks promoting social engineering, to get us out of our cars and stay close to home. We need solutions to problems, not just throwing more money at it. The more money we spend, the less we seem to get from it.

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