

As a resident of Lake Oswego, I am concerned about the effects tolling would have on local traffic. I would therefore like to make sure both freeways, I-5 and I-205 are tolled simultaneously. I also am deeply concerned about climate change, and would like to make sure any tolling program has as a goal, a reduction in vehicle miles traveled, and includes increases in public transportation.

I also would like to replace the I-5 Interstate Bridge as soon as possible. As a former resident of California, I am deeply concerned about preparing for an earthquake that would certainly be devastating to transportation in our area if we do not prepare for it.

In line with all of these concerns, I would like to propose the idea of tolling both of the interstate bridges as soon as possible. It would both provide money clearly needed to rebuild the Interstate Bridge (and perhaps the Abernathy and Boone Bridges as well), and reduce congestion. And it would eliminate some of the biggest complaints to tolling, which is that it will create congestion on local streets. As long as they are both tolled at once, there is no way to drive around the interstate bridges – so no extra local congestion!

Much of our rush hour traffic comes from vehicles traveling to and from Washington, including the many people who work in one state and live in another for tax purposes. Portland is the only city I've ever experienced that seems to have more traffic going north into the city at 5 PM, than out – all because of the backup from the I-5 bridge. Let the people benefiting from these arrangements help pay for the bridges they are using. My friends from California are amazed that we don't toll the bridges already!

Tolling the bridges, especially with higher tolls for peak hours, would reduce congestion, cutting down on all the vehicles idling in traffic. And public transportation across the bridges provides an alternative for people who don't want to pay.