

I am sharing this comment to express strong support for tolling in general along with concern for implementation. I fear that the debate is too easily taking sides of yes or no on tolling with the opposition driven by people who generally oppose fees and taxes of all sorts. Of course, in order to have public infrastructure, we must pay for it.

When setting prices, we should raise the price of things we want to discourage and reduce prices of things that are more helpful. So, it makes sense to toll all car and truck traffic since we want less of it. It makes sense to use congestion pricing because we especially want to reduce traffic at high congestion times. We should use pricing to maximize the use of more efficient options including mass transit, remote work, cycling, walking, and carpooling.

My concern is the tolling of select roads. We don't prefer that commuters use neighborhood streets over highways. We don't prefer that they take highway 99 over I-205. I want to see weight-mile charges — fees that increase for heavier vehicles and for the amount of overall driving on any roads, not just select highways. That is only fair in terms of putting the burden on the modes of transit which incur the greatest costs to the system overall.

Since the goal is to reduce traffic, whatever tolling is done, the revenue should not go to infrastructure that encourages more driving but instead to making more efficient options more practical.

Thank you

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