

# Portland Metro Area Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis

Spring 2018 Update



### Presentation overview

- Background and process
- Public engagement: What we're hearing
- Technical analysis: What we're learning
- Next steps



### What's the problem?



# Legislative Context

DEPART

ON

RANSPOR





#### Policy

Value Pricing

State Highway Fund (Local Government Share)

#### Accountability Directs the commission to create a Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee for ODOT,

measure and report on transportation system condition for all jurisdictions, create a transparency website, conduct benefit cost analysis for capacity building projects and create a stronger connection between the commission and the internal auditor of ODOT.

Creates a pathway for use of value pricing to relieve Portland Metro area congestion.

Counties

Connect Oregon.

#### **Clean Fuels** Guarantees certainty with cost containment measures in statute for consumer protection.

Use of Salt Requires a statewide winter maintenance strategy that includes the use of salt.



Pacific Highway West in Eugene, Springfield Highway in Springfield, Territorial Highway and Springfield-Creswell Highway in Lane County to local governments. Transfers Cornelius Pass Road in Multnomah and Washington Counties to ODOT.

\* Data as of June 30, 2017.

# HB2017 Section 120 - Value Pricing

Directs the OTC to:

- Seek FHWA approval to implement value pricing no later than 12/31/18
- If approved, "the commission shall implement value pricing to reduce traffic congestion."



# HB2017 Section 120 - Value Pricing

Priority locations:

- I-5 and I-205 in Portland metro region
- Implementation could be in discrete segment(s)
- Does not preclude other freeways or other agency implementation





### Implementation timeline





### Value Pricing Policy Advisory Committee

### **Oregon Transportation Commission (two co-chairs)**

Clackamas County	Clark County	Multnomah County	Washington County
City of Portland	Port of Portland	Metro	City of Vancouver
TriMet	Ride Connection	Verde	Oregon Trucking Associations
Portland Business Alliance	Fred Meyer	AAA Oregon	The Street Trust
Oregon Environmental Council	OPAL Environmental Justice of Oregon	Westside Economic Alliance	Community Alliance of Tenants
ODOT	WSDOT	FHWA (e	ex officio)



### **Committee Charge**

### The committee will advise the OTC:

- Location(s) best suited for value pricing to reduce congestion
- The type(s) of value pricing to implement
- Mitigation strategies to evaluate further



# **PAC Recommendation Process**

	PAC4 April 11	PAC 5 May 14	PAC 6 June 25
Information/ Discussion	Mitigation approaches / current policies	Round 2 concept analysis findings	Refinement of recommendations
Outcome	Identify mitigation opportunities & approaches	Preferred concept(s)	Final Recommendations - Location - Type - Mitigations

OTC meeting	Present the PAC recommendation(s) and hear public
July 12	comment



# Thinking about equity

- What input do environmental justice communities have?
- How would benefits be shared?
- What choices will exist and for whom?
- How would impacts be experienced?
- What can be done to better distribute benefits and mitigate impacts?



# Thinking about equity

- Existing inequities in Transportation
  - Auto-dependent system development
  - Housing/jobs balance in land use planning
  - Traditional funding sources
    - User fees compared to other tax types
  - Infrastructure impacts
    - Air quality, noise, construction, etc.
- Congestion pricing
  - Sharing in benefits
  - Out of pocket costs



## Actions other states have taken

# Incentives and discounts



HOV Toll-Free Use Signage, I-10 Express, Los Angeles, California

- Discounted rates for HOVs
- Subsidized toll rates
- Toll credits for use of modal alternatives
- Toll credits by location



### Actions other states have taken

# Special access programs



License Plate Tolling Signage, North Tarrant Express, Ft Worth, Texas

- Cash accounts for unbanked populations
- License-plate tolling



### Actions other states have taken

### Enhanced multimodal investments



*In-line bus station on I-35W Express Lane, Minneapolis, Minnesota* 

- Provide improved and expanded transit facilities and services to address accessibility
  - -Washington
  - -Minnesota
  - -California



# **Public Outreach**



# High level of regional input

- 6,722 visitors to online open house
- 3,357 views of overview video
- 260 people at 3 open houses
- 1,810 completed questionnaires
- 754+30 email/ voicemail





# Winter & Spring Open Houses





# What we are hearing Common themes

### Negative effects of congestion

- Time spent in traffic
- Increased stress, anxiety, and frustration
- Unpredictable travel time
- Adjusting route to avoid congestion



# What we are hearing **Common themes**

### **Concerns about congestion pricing**

- Impacts on low income communities
- Diversion of traffic onto surface streets & into neighborhoods
- Questions and ideas about how revenue should be used



# **Concept evaluation**



# Project Approach

Round 1 Evaluation (Jan/Feb)

- Start with "representative" concepts
- Understand the range of effects
- Screening level analysis (Operations, geometrics, capital costs)
- Discussions with stakeholders & public

### Round 2 Concepts (Mar/May)

- Refined performance evaluation
- Equity considerations
- Mitigation strategies



# Baseline – 2027 RTP



- For reference
- Includes growth in population and employment through 2027
- No tolls or pricing applied to either I-5 or I-205
- Includes all (700+) projects in the Regional Transportation Plan for 2027



# Value pricing tools

#### **Types of Freeway Pricing**

#### **Priced Roadways**



#### **Priced Lanes**





## Types of Freeway Pricing

#### Priced Roadways



#### EXPRESS LANE Pass ONLY TO Indian Trail Liburn Road \$0.03 TO D Lawrenceville \$0.13

**Priced Lanes** 

#### **Evaluation Building Blocks**

- 1. Priced Roadways
- 2. Priced Lane convert existing
- 3. Priced Lane add a 4<sup>th</sup> lane



# Round 1 Concepts



# Key findings from Round 1

### **Priced Roadway**

- Highest level of congestion relief
- Does not preclude freight (as do priced lanes)
- Equity trade-offs
  - -No unpriced lane option
  - -Can function with lower price, shared benefits
- Significantly less expensive to implement
- Highest revenue potential



# Key findings from Round 1

### Priced Lane – Convert existing lane

- Not operationally feasible in areas with only 2 lanes (e.g., Rose Quarter)
- Freight not typically allowed in left most lane
- Equity trade off: Maintains a "free" lane, but may not share benefits of pricing
- Single tolled lanes tend to generate limited revenue



# Key findings from Round 1

### Priced Lane – Construct a 4<sup>th</sup> lane

- Most expensive & impactful due to construction
- Equity trade off:
  - Maintains unpriced lane
  - Impacts from construction & added traffic.
- The travel benefits would be limited by downstream bottlenecks
- Improved traffic operations are largely due to added roadway capacity



# Round 2 Concepts



### Round 2 Concept A: Priced Lane Conversion

### Northern I-5 priced lanes

- Convert existing northbound HOV to priced lane
- Convert existing southbound GP to priced lane
- Key rationale
  - Relatively simple FHWA process
  - Significant existing congestion
  - Least expensive Round 2 Concept
- Key topics
  - Current HOV performance/ compliance
  - Diversion
  - Federal and NEPA requirements



### Round 2 Concept B: Priced Roadway

### Toll all lanes on I-5

- Near downtown Portland
  - Multnomah Blvd to Going St
  - Both directions
- Key rationale
  - Few possible solutions without significant investment
  - Provides new revenue source
  - Most severe congestion in Portland metro area
- Key topics
  - Diversion
  - Tradeoffs for equity
  - Federal and NEPA requirements





### Round 2 Concept C: Priced Roadway

### Toll all lanes on I-5 and I-205

- Key rationale
  - Greatest congestion relief
  - Greatest revenue potential
    - Mitigation strategies
  - Relatively inexpensive
  - Opportunity for part-time operations
- Key topics
  - Diversion
  - Impacts on I-84, I-405 and Boone Bridge (Wilsonville, OR)
  - Equity impacts and mitigations
  - Federal and NEPA requirements





### Round 2 Concept D: New Priced Lane

### New priced lane on I-205

- In southern Portland metro area
  - Stafford Rd to OR 99E
  - Includes Abernethy Bridge
- Key rationale
  - Removes existing 2 lane bottleneck
  - Provides new revenue source
  - Potential to relieve congestion in southern I-205 corridor
- Key topics

DEPA

- Diversion
- Operational effects on I-5
- Federal and NEPA requirements



### Round 2 Concept E: Price Abernethy Bridge

### Toll both directions on Abernethy Bridge

- Single toll location at bridge center
- Key rationale
  - Reduces impact on existing 2 lane bottleneck on bridge
  - New revenue source for seismic upgrades
  - Potential to relieve congestion within bridge vicinity
- Key topics
  - Diversion
  - Revenue potential
  - Operational effects on I-205
  - Federal and NEPA requirements





# **Next Steps**



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## Next steps: Spring engagement

- Equity focused discussion groups
- Four in-person & on-line open houses
- Presentations & briefings
- Website, social media, email/voice mail





# Spring Open Houses

Thursday April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Museum of Oregon Territory
5:30pm to 7:30pm	Oregon City
Saturday April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Russell Middle School
10am to 12pm	Southeast Portland
Wednesday April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Public Works Auditorium
5:30pm to 7:30pm	Tigard
Saturday April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Embassy Suites Airport
9:30am to 12:30pm	Northeast Portland

On-line open house planned for April 5 to 19



### Implementation timeline



## For more information and to sign up for updates

### **Project web site**

www.ODOTvaluepricing.org

### **Contact us**

- valuepricingINFO@odot.state.or.us (project team)
- valuepricingPAC@odot.state.or.us (Advisory Committee)

