



Business Leaders Building Community

April 30, 2018

Mr. Sean O'Hollaren
Mr. Alando Simpson
Portland Region Value Pricing Policy Advisory Committee
Oregon Department of Transportation Region 1
123 NW Flanders Street
Portland OR 97209

Dear Co-Chairs:

On behalf of the business leaders who comprise Identity Clark County, we support Oregon's pursuit of federal permission for congestion pricing. Washington State has similar permission and uses a mix of congestion-pricing and traditional tolling to help fund improvements. We also appreciate your involving Southwest Washington leaders to participate in your discussions, which opens more lines of communication and planning between the leaders of our two states.

Please consider the following as you prepare a recommendation:

- We strongly favor approaches that generate funding for well-defined improvements within zones where there is nexus between users and improvements. For more than a century, our region's citizens have accepted user fees when necessary for creation or improvement of key passages. By contrast, we do not favor value pricing without specifying improvements or solely to discourage peak-time driving, which already is being discouraged through six-hours of daily traffic congestion.
- We favor metrowide transportation improvement project coordination as your proposal takes shape. Our metropolitan region encompasses two states with an integrated transportation network that does not start or stop at the state line. Local funding will be needed for many regional improvements in the years ahead, and our plans need to be coordinated as we prepare our region for anticipated 40 percent population growth over the next two decades.

One natural opportunity for coordination is renewal of conversations to replace the obsolete and accident-prone I-5 bridge which is at significant seismic risk. Through a broadly-supported bill, a bipartisan, bicameral panel of Washington legislators have signaled their readiness to engage in conversations with Oregon legislators. Their request to catalog all past I-5 preparation work has been completed and they have extended invitations to engage in dialogue about a practical bridge replacement that integrates with the region's mass transit system.

We appreciate recent work by legislators in both Oregon and Washington to fund transportation improvements through fuel taxes and registration fees. Given the improbability of significant new federal funding, it is incumbent upon local leaders to find new ways to fund critically needed improvements that keep our people, freight, commerce and economy moving. This is why we are supportive of your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Arp".

Ron Arp
President, Identity Clark County

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mears".

Tom Mears
Chair, Identity Clark County



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