

Oregon Toll Program

ODOT Commerce and Compliance Division Brown Bag Webinar - Oregon Toll Program and Statewide Toll Rulemaking

September 27, 2023

Prepared for:



Prepared by:

KEARNS ⚡ WEST

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
CBO	Community-Based Organization
EECRC	Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center
EMAC	Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
RMPP	Regional Mobility Pricing Project
RTAC	Regional Toll Advisory Committee
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
STRAC	Statewide Toll Rulemaking Advisory Committee
WIC	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

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Meeting Overview

Subject	Commerce and Compliance Division Brown Bag Webinar
Date and Time	September 27, 2023 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm PST
Location	Virtual Teams Meeting
Attendees	25
Staff, Presenters, and Committee Members	James Buell (ODOT), Michelle Bowlin (ODOT), Elisha Brackett (ODOT), Jennifer Galvin (ODOT), Philip Grant (ODOT), Sven Johnson (ODOT), Chuck Larsen (ODOT), Jason Lawrence (ODOT), Renee Mercado (ODOT), Phil Miller (ODOT), Kim Ostrin (ODOT), Carla Phelps (ODOT), Tamera Prince (ODOT), Garet Prior (ODOT), Amy Ramsdell (ODOT), Howard Russell (ODOT), Ryan Sinks (ODOT), Hannah Williams (ODOT), Yvonne Wolf (ODOT), Sylvia Ciborowski (Kearns & West), Kirsten Hauge (Kearns & West), Ellen Palmquist, (Kearns & West), Amira Streeter (Kearns & West), Josh Channell (WSP)

Materials

- Annotated agenda
- Presentation slides

Participants

Attendee	Organization
Angela Anderson	RSB Logistic Group
Samia Barakat	Ryder
Scott Bishop	Signature Transport Inc
Brant Boyer	NA
Tom Campbell	NA
Mike Card	Combined Transport
Eric Carlson	JJ Keller
Laura Cook	Providence
Julie Doney	FastCore
Matt Eide	Quality Trading Co
Katie Kawasoe	Hill Meat Company
Tanner Lloyd	Associated General Contractors Oregon Chapter
Pat McHugh	Tillamook
Jo Moody	PGN
Megan Pearl	Comdata
Sean Philbrook	Identity Clark County
Marge Reed	NA
Mary Richards	Bestpass
John Schmitz	Premier Truck Group
Hedie Schulte	Boshart Trucking
Sheryl Sherry	Schneider Electric
Alvara Stroh	Waste Management
Sheri Taylor	Hughes Fire Equipment
Audra Tiller	Waste Connections
Margaret Valdez	Waste Management

Event Summary

The Commerce and Compliance Division (CCD) Brown Bag Webinar began at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. The objectives of the webinar were to:

- Share an overview of the Oregon Toll Program and project updates.
- Gain feedback on the tolling approach to enrollment and compliance for commercial accounts. Input will be shared with ODOT and STRAC to inform the rulemaking process and operations development.
- Share information about the rulemaking process and the upcoming October webinar on draft plans for vehicle classification and cost.
- Answer questions about the Oregon Toll Program.

The webinar was open to invited members of the freight community. Attendees registered ahead of time on the CCD website.

The virtual discussion was facilitated by Jason Lawrence, ODOT. The meeting opened with a presentation from Gareth Prior, ODOT, on the Oregon Toll Program. Gareth Prior and Phil Miller, ODOT, shared additional information about enrollment and compliance followed by time for Q&A and discussion.

Oregon Toll Program Update

Gareth Prior shared an overview of the Oregon Toll Program, described how tolling will work, and shared updates on the Regional Mobility Pricing Project, the I-205 Toll Project, and the statewide toll rulemaking process.

Enrollment and Compliance Approach

Gareth Prior and Phil Miller presented the draft plan for enrollment and compliance for commercial customers and how it addresses questions and comments from trucking customers. Participants shared the following questions and comments.

Question: Will weight mile tax rates be reduced when tolling is implemented?

- **Response from ODOT:** *ODOT will consider the weight mile tax when setting toll rates for commercial vehicles. There will be a higher toll rate for commercial vehicles.*

Question: Will commercial vehicles have to pay tolls on sections where weight mile tax is also paid?

- **Response from ODOT:** *Yes, ODOT anticipates that this will be an additional fee to use those facilities.*

Comment: How is ODOT balancing exemptions and the Low-Income Toll Program with revenue needs?

- **Response from ODOT:** *Exemptions and the Low-Income Toll Program will be factored into the analysis to understand what toll rates need to be. Initial analysis for the Low-Income Toll Program shows a low impact to revenue generation. ODOT wants to keep administrative costs low for the groups that are exempt from tolling. ODOT is considering exemptions connected to safety, transportation response, equity, and climate needs.*

Comment: Trucking and freight companies are concerned that existing fees are not being spent to expand and modernize roads.

Question: Why can't ODOT increase the fuel tax?

- **Response from ODOT:** *Revenue generation is an ongoing challenge. ODOT feels the needed investments can be delivered with tolling. ODOT will keep administrative costs as low as possible to keep toll costs as low as possible.*

Question: Will there be electronic tolls from the Abernethy Bridge to the I-205 Bridge? I'm familiar with tolls for bridge projects, but this sounds like a new revenue stream.

- **Response from ODOT:** *There will be additional toll gantries along the I-5 and I-205 corridors. ODOT does not know the specific toll gantry locations. The I-205 Toll Project and the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program would use tolls to pay for new infrastructure. RMPP will apply congestion pricing, which means higher tolls would be charged during rush hours and lower (or no) fees would be charged during busy times of day, to reduce congestion. This model is being proposed in New York City as well.*

Question: Does congestion pricing work to reduce traffic?

- **Response from ODOT:** *Congestion pricing has worked for other facilities. ODOT is planning to set toll rates for specific times of day so people can plan their trips in advance. A small change in traffic during peak periods can yield a change in the system. Toll rates would be lower during certain times of day.*

Comment: It would make more sense to add the average cost per mile that commercial vehicles pay in taxes to electric vehicles and bicycles.

Comment: Trucking and freight companies do not have control over delivery windows and often must travel during peak times. Concerned about providing discounts and exemptions for certain users.

- **Response from ODOT:** *ODOT recognizes that tolling will impact business models. A small reduction in the amount of traffic on the road (3-5%) will increase free flowing traffic. ODOT will watch the system closely to optimize toll rates and service offerings.*

Comment: Historically, commercial vehicles have not seen prices decrease. Once rates are set, we assume they will increase.

Next Steps

Garet Prior shared next steps for the rulemaking process and the following opportunities for further engagement:

- Complete a survey for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project from Sept. 26-Oct. 9.
- Join the CCD webinar on October 25 to learn more about the rulemaking process and discuss vehicle rate structures.
- Attend and provide comments at tolling advisory committee meetings.
- Share input on draft rules during the rulemaking public comment period and public hearing in early 2024.

Closing

Garet Prior and Jason Lawrence thanked the attendees for their participation and closed the meeting.

Resources

- September 27 CCD Brown Bag Webinar Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMscjROm7Sw>
- Regional Mobility Pricing Project: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/pages/i-5-tolling.aspx>
- I-205 Toll Project: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/pages/i-205-tolling.aspx>
- Statewide Toll Rulemaking Advisory Committee: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/tolling/Pages/Statewide-Toll-Rulemaking-Advisory-Committee.aspx>
- Toll Options Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/69B6FPD>
- October Webinar Registration: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=E9CwKLxGZEqNhhyKMc9ZDabDcToRA89JgcYI5eYAkBRUNjFDR0ZSSzJaRIRQQ1VJTEhLQTFEuu1XOC4u>