



Washington State
Transportation Commission

I-5 Bridge Tolling Update

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Role of Tolling for the I-5 Bridge

- The Transportation Commissions of Washington and Oregon are responsible for setting toll rates and policies for the I-5 Bridge over the Columbia River.
- The Washington State Legislature provided toll authorization for the I-5 Columbia River Bridge in 2023 and included the following criteria:
 - Authorized tolling on the existing and replacement I-5 Bridges.
 - Prohibited tolling on the Washington State portion of I-205.
 - Toll rates for the I-5 Bridge must not exceed the highest toll rates on other Washington State toll facilities.
 - Toll revenues from the I-5 Bridge must not pay for the operational and administrative costs of Oregon’s tolling system, nor other Oregon toll facilities.

Role of Tolling for the I-5 Bridge

- I-5 Bridge tolling will be used as follows:
 - Contribute about \$1.2 billion in funding for bridge construction
 - Pay for maintenance and operation of the facility
 - Help improve travel reliability within the bridge corridor
- Pre-completion tolling is scheduled to begin in 2026 on the existing bridges, with tolling continuing on the new bridge upon project completion.
- Toll rates and policies may differ between pre-completion tolling on the existing bridges and tolling on the new bridge, with potential changes to address revenue and operational performance, and policy considerations.

I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Agreement

- The Washington and Oregon legislatures directed the transportation commissions of each state to enter into an agreement regarding the joint setting, adjustment, and review of toll rates for the I-5 Bridge over the Columbia River (I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Agreement).
- As approved by the Commissions in January 2024, the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Agreement includes the following:
 - Direction on formation and role of a bi-state tolling subcommittee
 - Requirements for the setting of toll rates and policies for the I-5 Bridge
 - Dispute resolution process

Bi-State Subcommittee Intent

- In accordance with the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Agreement, the Transportation Commissions of each state formed the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee in January 2024 to inform and advise the full Commissions on toll rate and policy decisions.
- Intent for the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee includes:
 - Study, review, and recommend toll rates and policies for the I-5 Bridge to the full Commissions for rate setting and annual reviews.
 - Inform the full Commission’s rate-setting decisions with updates on toll-setting work for the I-5 bridge, and on related research and analysis.
- Toll rates and policies must comply with state law and applicable bond covenants.

Bi-State Subcommittee Membership

The I-5 Bridge Tolling Subcommittee is comprised of two Transportation Commissioners from each state:



- Washington State Transportation Commission:
 - Jim Restucci, WSTC Vice-Chair
 - Roy Jennings



- Oregon Transportation Commission:
 - Lee Beyer, OTC Vice-Chair
 - Alicia Chapman

Bi-State Subcommittee Outreach

- To inform recommended toll rates and policies, the I-5 Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee will conduct public engagement and tribal consultation.
 - Public engagement
 - Intent to support awareness and input about tolling scenario recommendations
 - Convening monthly subcommittee meetings that are open to the public
 - Seeking to reach both the general public, and historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities
 - Tribal consultation
 - Consult with federally recognized tribes in Oregon and Washington on development of toll rates and policies

Bi-State Subcommittee Milestones

Milestones completed to date

- **January 2024:** Full Commissions agreed to I-5 Bi-State Tolling Agreement & appointed subcommittee members
- **February 2024:** First meeting of the I-5 Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee

Remaining milestones

- **March – September 2024:** Develop and recommend Level 3 toll rate scenarios
 - Full Commissions to select Level 3 toll rate scenarios in September/October 2024 for further analysis
- **Winter 2024 – Spring 2025:** Develop and recommend toll rate scenarios for public input for approval by the full Commissions
- **Spring – Summer 2025:** Recommend final toll rates and policy for adoption by the full Commissions

Looking Forward

- The Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee will remain in place after the Commissions adopt I-5 Bridge toll rates and policies in the Summer of 2025, and pre-completion tolling begins in early 2026.
- On-going responsibilities for the Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee will be to review the facility's traffic, revenue, and costs; maintain a forum for public engagement, and recommend potential change to toll rates and policies for consideration by the full Commissions.
- In particular, the Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee will closely assess potential changes to toll rates and policies with the opening of the new bridge in the early 2030s.

Questions?

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