



June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baney, Chair  
Oregon Transportation Commission  
355 Capitol Street, NE MS 11  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Baney and the Oregon Transportation Commission members,

We appreciate the work that the State Legislature, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC), and the Oregon Department of Transportation have undertaken so far to advance the value pricing conversation in the Portland metropolitan region. As our region faces increasing growth, we need new tools at our disposal to improve the transportation experience for our region's residents and businesses. We support advancing the recommendation for value pricing on I-5 and I-205 for further analysis during a NEPA process.

The Value Pricing process has been complex, making it important for us to weigh in on larger policy goals and objectives, so we wanted to take this opportunity to make sure we are clear about the principles we want to see in a successful pricing program. We believe these principles can be incorporated, and want to be partners with you in implementing a program that meets them. These principles are similar to the principles all of us have articulated throughout the process:

- 1) **Any pricing program must focus on managing demand**, rather than generating revenue. The Portland region has significant transportation needs, and if we do not manage demand effectively and equitably, those needs will continue to spiral. Demand management maximizes efficiency on existing roads and provides the greatest congestion relief and travel time savings. This principle has been codified in state law [ORS 366.292 and HB 2017 Section 120(3)], is consistent with regional policy, and deserves an explicit commitment from the OTC.
- 2) **Increased transit access must be a core part of a pricing program, in order to most effectively manage congestion and provide affordable options for system users.** This provides people with equitable alternatives to driving, mitigates the impact on low-income communities, and moves more people through the system with greater efficiency. If we price the use of the roadway, we must provide people with an affordable, reliable option. We ask the OTC to embed increased transit access as a key performance measure for value pricing.
- 3) **A pricing program should affirmatively and measurably reduce current transportation inequities, not just mitigate burdens to low income communities and communities of color.** A strong pricing program can help reduce travel times, improve air quality, and result in safer and more efficient ways to get around. Pricing can and should be implemented in a way to create a transportation system that offers more benefits and less burdens to low-income communities and communities of color. Any system must not lead to disproportionate enforcement and penalties on people of color, including undocumented residents. We applaud the consultant's



report which highlighted multiple measures other jurisdictions have enacted to provide relief for low-income residents and suggest adoption of such measures.

This ethos should also be incorporated into any public engagement; special efforts should be made to listen to, address, and report out on the concerns of communities of color and low-income residents who might be impacted.

We also believe there is a need for future analysis of system-wide pricing, and believe that it should be a cooperative process, recognizing that local governments own and operate the majority of the roads in the region.

We look forward to working with you as the program further develops to ensure that these principles are upheld in its final form. We believe there is a path to success here and want to be partners.

Sincerely,

Tom Hughes, President  
Metro Council

Jessica Vega Pederson, Commissioner  
Multnomah County Commission

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Portland City Council

Bernie Bottomly, Executive Director of Public Affairs  
TriMet

Gerik Kransky, Policy Director  
The StreetTrust

Chris Hagerbaumer, Deputy Director  
Oregon Environmental Council

Tony DeFalco, Deputy Director  
Verde

Vivian Satterfield, Deputy Director  
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

CC: Commissioner Simpson and O'Hollaren, Value Pricing PAC Co-chairs  
Matt Garrett, ODOT Director  
Phil Ditzler, FHWA Oregon Division Administrator