



CITY OF West Linn

March 9, 2023

Mandy Putney
Oregon Department of Transportation
Via email
CC: Keith Lynch, FHWA, Kris Strickler, ODOT

Dear Ms. Putney,

On behalf of the West Linn City Council, I am writing to request an extension to the public comment period for the I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment (EA), which began on February 21, 2023. We appreciate the additional time that ODOT recently provided. However, as we continue our review of the voluminous materials that have just been released, we request a 90 day public comment period to complete our work and provide you with specific, concise, and well-reasoned comments. The Environmental Assessment includes thousands of pages of information that must be reviewed and analyzed before comments can be developed. For a smaller city like ours, this review must be conducted at the same time as a multitude of other projects. We then need to work our comments through local review, particularly our City Council meeting schedule.

We are also concerned about the lack of opportunities for public engagement. Two webinars, one three-hour public hearing, and a survey all set to occur within 45 days will not provide sufficient opportunity for our community members to become informed and have the opportunity to provide feedback. More time and more opportunities are needed.

Specifically, we request that ODOT present directly to the West Linn City Council at an upcoming Council meeting within the public comment period timeline, and request that you reach out to our Neighborhood Associations and local business organizations with a similar offer. West Linn will be perhaps the most impacted community by the tolling proposal, and we would appreciate that ODOT conduct public outreach accordingly.

In summary, as a participating agency for the I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment, we **formally request that you provide a 90-day public comment period for the I-205 Toll Project Environmental Assessment.** We could certainly make good use of even more time but understand you are working within limitations as well. A 90-day comment period will allow much-needed time for review and public engagement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rory Bialostosky'.

Rory Bialostosky, Interim Mayor
City of West Linn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Williams'.

John Williams, City Manager
City of West Linn