



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Oregon Division

August 3, 2020

530 Center Street NE, Suite 420
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-399-5749
Oregon.FHWA@dot.gov

In Reply Refer To:
HDA – OR

Ms. Melissa Smith
Councilor
City of Camas
616 NE 4th Ave
Camas, WA 98607

Subject: I-205 Toll Project
Location: Clackamas County, Oregon
Action: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment

RE: Request for Participating Agency Designation

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a joint lead agency, seeks to coordinate with agencies and Tribes in association with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) consistent with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations for a proposed tolling project on Interstate 205 (I-205). ODOT sent FHWA a letter initiating the project on July 14, 2020. The purpose of the I-205 Toll Project (Project) is to manage congestion on I-205 between Stafford Road and Oregon Route 213 (OR 213) and raise revenue to fund congestion relief projects in compliance with House Bill 2017. The attached draft Purpose and Need Statement provides additional detail on why the Project is proposed.

The Project is entering the environmental review phase. We will be requesting agency and Tribal review and input on the following:

- Agency Coordination Plan
- Purpose and Need Statement
- Range of alternatives
- Identification of the preferred alternative
- Impact assessment methodologies related to your area(s) of jurisdiction
- Potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts related to your area of jurisdiction
- Environmental Assessment

Agency, Tribal, and public input will help to finalize the range of alternatives and the areas of concern to be studied in the EA. Resources potentially affected during construction or operation include traffic, air quality, economics, energy, environmental justice populations, noise, social and community resources, visual quality, and others.

With this letter, we extend an invitation to you to become a Participating Agency with the FHWA in the development of the EA. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. Section 139, Participating Agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the Project's potential environmental, social, or economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the Project. The intent is to ensure that agencies are fully engaged in the development of the Project and that the decisions regarding alternatives are evaluated in detail in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the Project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise or environmental issues of concern to your jurisdiction:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
3. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

We look forward to your response to this request and your agency's role as a Participating Agency on the Project. Although it does not appear that greater involvement as a Cooperating Agency will be needed on this project, if you feel your agency should have this larger role, please indicate this in your response along with an explanation of any special expertise or jurisdiction by law your agency may have over potential resource impacts. **The FWHA respectfully requests that you respond to this invitation in writing by September 4, 2020.** Your written response may be transmitted electronically to Emily Cline, FHWA Environmental Program Manager, at emily.cline@dot.gov or by mail to 530 Center Street NE, Suite 420, Salem, OR 97301.

If your agency does not respond to this invitation by the date listed above, we will consider that you have declined to serve as a Participating Agency. Your agency may still review documents and submit comments during formal public comment periods.

If you plan to serve as a participating agency or you wish to learn more about the Project, please join us for a virtual agency coordination meeting on August 12, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m (details below). At the meeting, we will provide an overview of the Project and an opportunity for questions, input, and discussion. The agency coordination meeting will be held via Zoom:

**I-205 Toll Project Participating Agency Coordination Meeting
August 12, 2020, 2:00-4:00pm**

Zoom Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://wspusa.zoom.us/j/97684399594?pwd=ZWZyb2VCOXZoa0xNcUIzbnV0c1I2dz09>

Password: 416183

Or Telephone:
Dial: 404-469-0482 or 877-829-8910 (Toll Free)
Conference code: 476552

As part of early public engagement for NEPA, we will also be hosting an online open house and a series of webinar public open houses on August 12, 18, and 20, 2020 (see www.OregonTolling.org for details).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Project in more detail, please contact Lucinda Broussard, Toll Program Director, ODOT at (503) 979-5171, Lucinda.Broussard@odot.state.or.us; or contact Emily Cline, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA at (503) 316-2547, emily.cline@dot.gov. After all Participating Agencies have been identified, we will prepare and circulate a project schedule for the full NEPA process. A project website will also be maintained to facilitate information sharing with agencies and the public: www.OregonTolling.org.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation in the Project.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP A DITZLER

Digitally signed by PHILLIP A
DITZLER
Date: 2020.08.03 11:28:12 -07'00'

Phillip A. Ditzler
Division Administrator

Enclosures: Draft Purpose and Need Statement, Draft Agency Coordination Plan, Draft Comparison of Screening Alternatives Report and Executive Summary

cc: Lucinda Broussard, ODOT Toll Program Director
Steve Wall, City of Camas