

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 21-5216 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE FY 2021-22 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TO ADD THE REGIONAL MOBILITY PRICING PROJECT THAT WAS FUNDED SINCE THE UPWP WAS ADOPTED

Date: November 24, 2021
Department: Planning
Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

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ISSUE STATEMENT

The UPWP is developed annually and documents metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with federal transportation funds. The UPWP is a living document, and may be amended periodically over the course of the year to reflect changes in project scope or budget.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the requested amendment to the 2021-2022 UPWP.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

The near-term investment strategy contained in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) focuses on key priorities for the purpose of identifying transportation needs, including projects and the planning activities contained in the UPWP. These investment priorities include a specific focus on four key outcomes:

- Equity
- Safety
- Managing Congestion
- Climate

The planning activities within the Regional Mobility Pricing Project are consistent with 2018 RTP policies and intend to help the region achieve these outcomes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve Resolution No. 21-5216 and amend the FY 2021-22 UPWP.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Known Opposition

None

Legal Antecedents

Metro Council Resolution No. 21-5165 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Anticipated Effects

Approval will result in adding the Regional Mobility Pricing Project to the UPWP, which will allow ODOT to initiate planning work in the current fiscal year (prior to June 30, 2022).

BACKGROUND

The ODOT Toll Program is building on the outcome of the agency's Value Pricing Feasibility Analysis completed in December 2018. The feasibility analysis was conducted using state funding from House Bill 2017; no Federal funds were spent (except for \$43 in June by administrative staff activating the account).

The Toll Program is part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. This planning effort was included in the 2021-2022 UPWP with two components, a Comprehensive Congestion Management and Mobility Pricing Project and tolling of Interstate 205 in Clackamas County (OR213 to Stafford Road), which has subsequently completed planning and entered the preliminary engineering phase.

The Comprehensive Congestion Management and Mobility Pricing Project, renamed as the Regional Mobility Pricing Project, carries forward one project in the planning phase. It is evaluating variable rate pricing on all lanes of the full corridor lengths of Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 within the Portland metro area. In December 2020, the Oregon Transportation Commission, under the direction of HB 2017, extended the toll corridor for this project to the full length of I-5 and I-205 from an earlier shorter segment between southwest and north Portland only. The I-205 Toll Project is ODOT's other active toll project. It has advanced out of the planning phase into the preliminary engineering and environmental review phase and is longer included within the Unified Planning Work Plan.

ODOT initiated a federal Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) process in 2021 for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project. The goal is to identify -- through outreach with agency partners and the public -- the project purpose, needs, area of impact, and initial concepts that will be evaluated for environmental impacts under the federal National Environmental Policy Act. This initial planning phase for the Regional Mobility Pricing Project is expected to be completed in 2022.

As originally conceived, the tolling program totaled just over \$18 million. Subsequent funding from the Oregon Transportation Commission increased the project allocation to \$21.2 Million. As shown in the budget table in Exhibit A, the revised Regional Mobility Pricing Project will utilize \$4.3 million during the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year.

The Regional Mobility Pricing Project is consistent with RTP Goal 4: Reliability and Efficiency, Objective 4.6 Pricing – Expand the use of pricing strategies to manage vehicle congestion and encourage shared trips and use of transit.

The project is also consistent with the RTP's Transportation System Policies: Transportation System Management and Operations Policy 1: Expand use of pricing strategies to manage travel demand on the transportation system; and Regional Motor Vehicle Network Policy 6: In combination with increased transit service, consider use of value pricing to manage congestion and raise revenue when one or more lanes are being added to throughways.