02212

From: Bruce Foster

To: <u>Draft EIS Feedback;</u>

CC:

Subject: Comments

**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 10:47:48 AM

**Attachments:** 

## P-0472-001

I just read in The Oregonian about a proposal from Metro councilors Collette, Liberty, and Hosticka to begin charging tolls on the existing I-5 Columbia River bridges before going ahead with any bridge replacement. I think that is an excellent idea. Implementing the tolls immediately would give us an opportunity to see how much of the current congestion could be alleviated simply through congestion pricing of tolls. It would also start to collect funds for the eventual costs of changes to the existing bridges or the construction of another alternative. The information we would get from having these tolls in place for a year or two is essential to planning the eventual solution for the Columbia River Crossing project.

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Modeling has indicated that tolling I-5 without making the improvements that are part of the CRC project would not meet the project's Purpose and Need. This does not mean that some form of tolling prior to constructing CRC couldn't be implemented. The ultimate decision on any tolling options will be made by both the Washington and Oregon Transportation Commissions.