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Comment Category: General Comments

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Comment:

I am very concerned about plans to charge a toll of \$3.50 per trip--\$7 per day for those of us who must commute to work daily. That's \$35 a week, and more than \$150 a month. Who can afford that? Only the very rich. So the effect of such a toll will be to divert traffic to the only other cross-lake option--down I-5, across I-90, and up I-405--creating horrible gridlock and causing everyone to use tons more gas. That is no solution.

And don't think that the huge toll will motivate people to take the bus. Given the huge traffic jams on 520 today, anyone who *can* take the bus *is* taking the bus already.

When the 520 bridge first opened up, there was a toll of around 25 cents per trip. That is affordable. But even accounting for increases in wages and cost of living over the years, there's no way that 25 cents then equals \$3.50 now. That's an increase of 1400 percent.

I think whatever design option you choose must be something that can be built affordably, with affordable tolls--not more than \$.50 per trip, or \$1 a day round trip. Yes, it's fair to have those who use the bridge pay for some of the work. But not at a rate that makes it impossible for any but the rich to use the bridge.

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Comment Summary:

Tolling Scenarios, Pricing, and Revenue

Response:

See Section 3.3 of the 2006 Draft EIS Comment Response Report.