



From: [Catherine SOUTHERN](#)
 To: [Columbia River Crossing](#)
 CC:
 Subject: Feedback on Proposed Toll
 Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 7:45:06 AM
 Attachments:

Dear Reader,

P-0635-001 I would like to express my opposition to the recent proposal to place a toll on the Interstate Bridge. With increasing gas prices, commuter rush hour traffic has already decreased. Such a toll would place an additional burden on the working class - one that is not needed in the current economic climate.

Sincerely,

Catherine Southern
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P-0635-001

Tolling was evaluated in the DEIS, and included in the LPA for two important reasons. First, a toll is necessary to pay for the construction of this project, as discussed in Chapter 4 of the FEIS. Second, a toll provides a valuable travel demand management tool that encourages travelers to take alternative modes (including light rail provided by this project), travel at off-peak periods, or reduce their auto trips. This demand management reduces congestion and extends the effective service of the facility.

Regarding oil prices, significant increases in prices can have both short term and long term effects on travel behavior. In the short term, the options for responding to rising gas prices are more limited, and include driving less and/or changing from driving to walking, biking or transit for at least some trips. During recent increases in gasoline prices transit use increased and off-peak highway travel decreased. Peak period highway travel changed little.

Over the long term, there are more options for adjusting to changes in gasoline prices, besides changing driving behavior. Technological advances and legislative mandates can increase fuel efficiency standards in the long term. In turn, as older vehicles wear out, more consumers can replace them with more fuel efficient vehicles. Automobile manufacturers are developing and will continue to develop new vehicle and engine technologies that require much less, or even no, petroleum-based fuels. This trend is already happening as evidenced by the growing popularity of gasoline-electric hybrid and small electric vehicles.