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**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07-08**

A RESOLUTION relating to the Clark County Council’s input regarding the Oregon Toll Program’s June 27, 2022 draft Low-Income Toll Report.

WHEREAS, the draft Low-Income Toll Report for the Oregon Toll Program was conducted by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) at the direction of the Oregon Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the report identifies options for consideration on the thresholds and benefits for an equitable and inclusive toll system; and

WHEREAS, ODOT is requesting public input on the draft Low-Income Toll Report that will inform changes to be made for the Final Low-Income Toll Report; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Council recognizes that, although these proposed tolls would be implemented within the state of Oregon, they will impact Clark County residents that transit through the entire Portland metropolitan area and may inform future regional tolling conversations<sup>1</sup>, and as such, the County Council desires to provide input on the draft Low-Income Toll Report through this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

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<sup>1</sup> The Draft Low-Income Toll Report states “While there are currently only two planned toll projects in Oregon, this report seeks to establish a broad framework that is flexible to adapt to future projects statewide yet effective and precise enough to prevent negative impacts on people experiencing low incomes when tolling begins in the Portland area.” (page 4).

21           Section 1. The County Council recognizes the proposed tolls in Oregon will be  
22 costly to all roadway users, to varying degrees, and will be particularly challenging for  
23 individuals with lower incomes.

24           Section 2. The County Council is concerned with the proposal to allow self-  
25 certification of income levels, without substantiating documents, to obtain benefits and  
26 fee reductions. While the County Council understands the need for efficiency and ease of  
27 enrollment, it is critical to prevent fraud; self-certification may result in an unacceptable  
28 level of fraud harming all those that lawfully abide by the rules and pay the required toll.

29           Section 3. The County Council recommends that the “extensive marketing,  
30 promotion, and engagement with community-based organizations” begin at least 18-24  
31 months in advance of the implementation of tolling. A six (6) month campaign is  
32 insufficient time to give individuals and businesses time to make substantial changes to  
33 accommodate the increased cost in transportation.

34           Section 4. The County Council encourages further analysis on the proposal to  
35 allow individuals with an income at 400% of the Federal Poverty Level and below  
36 additional time to pay toll charges, multiple notices of account balances, and education  
37 opportunities. The current report is void of detail regarding the costs associated with  
38 these measures compared to the collection costs received.

39           Section 5. The County Council additionally urges prompt additional study on the  
40 implementation and operational costs associated with the recommendations made in the  
41 report. Absent this critical piece of information, including the level of tolling required for  
42 sufficient revenue generation including the proposed discounts and exemptions, full  
43 analysis cannot be made as to the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed mitigation

44 strategies. This additional study should be scientifically sound and require survey  
45 participation from a far greater number of individuals to gain the sufficiently accurate and  
46 reliable data.

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ADOPTED on this 13 day of July, 2022.

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49 Attest:

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Clerk to the Council

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55 Approved as to Form Only:

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57 ANTHONY GOLIK  
Prosecuting Attorney

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61 By:   
Leslie Lopez, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Karen Dill Bowerman, Chair

  
Temple Lentz, Councilor

  
Gary Medvigy, Councilor

  
Richard Rylander, Councilor

