

STAFFORD HAMLET COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes

June 9, 2020

Chair Bill Markt called the June 9th Community meeting of the Stafford Hamlet to order at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Attendance:

- ❖ Board Members Present: Jane Comer, Richard Fiala, John Keith, Katy Krider, Jana Lombardi, Bill Long, Patty Mamula, Bill Markt, Brandon Post, Len Schaber,
- ❖ Excused:
- ❖ Absent:
- ❖ Staff Present:

Presentation by the Oregon Department Of Transportation (ODOT) - Understanding Local Impacts:

Heather Wills and Lucinda Broussard from ODOT came to speak about I-5 and I-205 Tolling Projects. They spoke about the history, tolling projects, alternatives, and what's next. ODOT is doing a survey on toll project preference, and there will be a fall component as well. They provided an overview of the work of the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee and how that is shaping the tolling proposal. ODOT has been hearing that traffic congestion is a big concern, that there is great concern about diversion off the highways into neighborhoods, the lack of transit options in a lot of Clackamas County, and that tolls are not equitable. They explained how the national environmental policy act applies to the projects and how it is shaping the current work.

The current projects schedule is tolling environmental review for I-205 from 2020 to 2022, I-205 widening (from design to construction) in 2019 to 2025, I-5 toll project (including alternatives and environmental review) from 2020 to 2024, and equity framework and engagement from 2019 to 2024.

The cost of the toll has not yet been determined. The goal of the tolls is to pay for the projects and manage demand. ODOT is working on studying diversion, also known as the rerouting analysis approach, which includes identifying impacted routes, the scale of the impact, and intersections that will be most affected at peak hours. ODOT explained the current rerouting, location of gantries, and how tolling could be calculated. The locations for gantries could be on the Abernathy Bridge, off the Abernathy Bridge, tolling at Stafford and Abernathy, segment based tolls, and a single zone toll from Stafford to OR-213.

ODOT - Question and Answer:

Johnathon John asked if tolling is a done deal and the answer is tolling is going to happen. He asked if this requires a vote of the public, and the answer from ODOT is the authority came from legislation at the state level. He asked why Oregon is implementing tolls when some states are dismantling them, and ODOT said those states have gone to electronic tolls. One of his concerns was the impact on commercial transportation because of the tolls on I-5 and I-205, and he suggested the commercial firms pay the tolls and not the locals. He asked about how much commercial traffic has increased in the past 10-15 years, and ODOT said they can get back to him with the information.

John Keith asked tolling could be cancelled if the federal government helps fund the Abernathy Bridge widening project. ODOT said they did not know, but asked if it would help with congestion.

Len Schaber asked if there would be the possibility of a monthly toll pass for residents that would be a lower cost than those who paid the thru toll one time. ODOT said that would be a topic for the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Charles Ormsby is concerned about diversion, congestion, mapping, and the amount of detail involved. He would like to see more maps available for the community. He is also concerned about the transit options between cities and local government offices.

Jana Lombardi asked if more people working from home long term would factor into ODOT plans due to less congestion. Lucinda said it is still being studied.

Laura Greyerbiehl, who lived in Seattle and saw what happened with tolling there, and said she thought that local residents here in Stafford would avoid the freeway if tolling happened. She asked who would pay tolls when businesses from outside the area come in to provide services to local residents. She wondered if the customer or the business would pay the toll.

John Keith asked when people can provide comments to the Oregon Transportation Commission or any other decision making body. Lucinda said the information is in the packet that was sent out. She said they can also pass along comments.

Rick Cook asked if tolling will go away after ten years or whenever the project is paid for. Lucinda said it could happen but it is hard to say.

Adjournment: Chair Bill Markt adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.