



No Toll Army
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No Toll Army Files Initiative Petition Requiring Statewide Vote Before Highway Tolling

West Linn, OR October 9, 2021 – No Toll Army announced today our filing of an Initiative Petition seeking to gain the requirement of a statewide vote of registered Oregonians for prior approval of any implementation of tolling on Oregon highways. The filing was made with the Secretary of State on Friday, October 8th. Our goal is to have this question on the November 2022 ballot.

This new filing is similar to an initiative filed in 2020 and subsequently withdrawn when the COVID shutdowns impacted signature gathering.

According to ODOT's 2020 Engagement Report (§6.1), *"The majority of commenters who participated in this engagement expressed opposition to tolling on I-205. This sentiment was exhibited in all demographic groups and is illustrated by the 70% of online survey commenters who expressed disagreement with the draft Purpose and Need Statement for the Project"* (emphasis is ours). ODOT's response was to increase engagement and education, however, ODOT's August Monthly Update published in early September touts the progress and success of receiving 156 public comments over the first 7 months of 2021, and yet still showing 190 objections and concerns.

Over 350 people have registered their objections to tolls at <https://NoToll.Army> over the past three weeks. This constituent base continues to grow and is establishing a statewide presence.

Pictures and videos are being consolidated and will be placed online throughout the day for media outlets that were unable to attend today's Press Conference and public rally at the Historic Oregon City Bridge, which will become a key toll aversion route if tolling is implemented on I-205. They can be found at in our DropBox folder linked to <https://NoToll.Army/sharedpublic>

No Toll Army priorities:

- Legislation calling for a public vote on highway tolls *before* they go into effect
- ODOT transparency on their decision processes, toll amounts, use of funds, and plans for sunseting of tolls

- An open discussion as to how tolls fit into ODOT's short- and long-term funding strategy for local and state-wide projects

The No Toll Army objects to the conclusions being expressed by ODOT, METRO, planners, and some local politicians. We believe:

- Tolls are not equitable and unfairly penalize local businesses and hard working tax-paying citizens who travel Oregon highways every day
- Tolls will not reduce congestion and will divert traffic onto side streets
- Automated electronic tolling is still a toll
- Cars, trucks, busses, light rail, trains, bicycles, and sidewalks all serve different transportation needs and should co-exist
- One highway toll is a gateway to more highway tolls

Additional information may be found at <https://NoToll.Army>

We are available for voice and remote video comment.

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