

When would tolling start?

The new bridge over the Columbia River is expected to open by mid-2018. Tolling could start at that time, or earlier, depending upon legislative direction.

The option of starting tolling on the existing I-5 bridge during construction could be added to any of the scenarios below. A mid-2013 tolling start date could raise up to \$330 million in additional direct construction funding and provide needed funds earlier in the construction process. Traffic on the existing bridge would also be less congested if variable tolls were in place during construction.

Variables Examined in Toll Scenarios

Toll scenarios differed in their use of a couple key variables, including:

- **Variable or fixed-rate tolls** – All but one of the scenarios assume a variable toll that would be highest during peak hours and lower at all other times. The variable toll schedule would be set according to a specific schedule. For the fixed-rate scenario, the toll would remain the same 24 hours a day.

- **Toll rate ranges** – All but one scenario assumed the time frames shown in Exhibit 1 for the variable toll schedule. Scenario 1D assumed that the toll rates would change more frequently throughout the day. See Appendix C for this information.

Range of Toll Rates Evaluated

Toll rates for each of the specific scenarios can be found in Appendix C. For the purposes of this analysis and report, all toll rates are reported in year end 2006 dollars, for consistency with the Draft EIS analysis. Tolls are assumed to increase yearly to keep pace with expected inflation. The analysis assumes a future inflation rate of 2.5 percent per year.

The toll amounts shown are for a one-way trip. For the I-5 only toll scenarios, the total round-trip amount would depend on the time of day that a person traveled north and south across the bridge. For the scenarios with both I-5 and I-205 tolled, the total cost would depend on the time of travel southbound, since double the one-way toll was assumed to be collected southbound only for a round-trip.

For the purpose of this analysis, trucks were broken down into two categories: medium trucks and large tractor trailers. Medium trucks would pay two times the rate of a passenger car, and large tractor trailers would pay four times the passenger car rate.

Time of day	Range of Tolls Analyzed by Time Period (toll amounts are for a one-way trip)	
	2006 dollars	2018 dollars (year of opening)
Midnight to 5 a.m.	\$1.00 - \$3.00	\$1.34 - \$4.04
5 a.m. to 6 a.m.	\$1.25 - \$4.50	\$1.68 - \$6.05
6 a.m. to 10 a.m.	\$1.50 - \$6.00	\$2.69 - \$8.07
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	\$1.25 - \$4.50	\$1.68 - \$6.05
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.	\$1.50 - \$6.00	\$2.69 - \$8.07
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	\$1.25 - \$4.50	\$1.68 - \$6.05
8 p.m. to Midnight	\$1.00 - \$3.00	\$1.34 - \$4.04

Exhibit 1. Toll rates vary within in each range, depending on scenario being considered. Toll rates will not be set as part of this analysis. Rates will be determined in the future by the state transportation commissions.