

# ERP Final Report Appendix H: Expert Review Panel Process Questions

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The following questions were posed and discussed during the expert review panel process. The questions helped to guide the panel's review and recommendations to WSDOT in the final report.

## Policy

**ERP Charge:** Is the strategic approach of "Moving Washington" to implement express lanes on I-405/SR 167 viable, appropriate and consistent with emerging federal policy and current state and regional policies?

### Supporting Questions from ERP, EAG and Public

1. Terminology:
  - a. Could we consider the term "user fees" rather than "tolls"?
  - b. Could we consider "I-405/SR 167 Corridor" rather than just calling it Eastside Corridor?
2. Will you examine the project in the context of the region?
3. Are we going to look at phasing and financing in regard to HOV policies?
4. Do we meet the state's level of service (LOS) policies?
5. What are the benefits of converting existing pavement to express toll lanes?

## Methodology

**ERP Charge:** Were the tools applied to the analysis consistent with industry norms? With those tools, are the technical analytical measures and results supporting the Eastside Corridor Express Toll Lanes Report consistent with best practices? Are the report results reasonable? What outcomes are reasonable to expect based on industry experience?

### Supporting Questions from ERP, EAG and Public

1. Could we consider using more accepted industry measures of effectiveness than "moving more people and vehicles"?
2. Could you review the traffic modeling to ensure that it's in keeping with industry standards?
3. Will there be additional analysis, so that we can compare the Express Toll Lanes Study performance with the Master Plan, based on the same level of investment?
4. How do the express toll lanes help GP traffic?
  - a. How much market are we serving and how well are we serving it?
  - b. What's the incentive to pay the toll in the HOT lane?
5. Will ETLs take traffic off the local streets?
6. Are ETLs good for transit?

## **Phasing**

**ERP Charge:** Does the proposed phasing plan to implement an express toll lane system provide for logical, usable segments to support the 50-mile Eastside Corridor?

### **Supporting Questions from ERP, EAG and Public**

1. What are the most logical steps to get to the approved Option 4?
2. Does the phasing respond to congestion needs?
3. Why start with the north end?
4. Do express toll lanes fit within the long-term I-405 corridor master plan?
5. What, if any, modeling looks at addressing the entire, wider corridor, and the arterials?
6. Does the need to convert HOV lanes to express toll lanes stem from HOV lane congestion?

## **Financial**

**ERP Charge:** Are the Eastside Corridor Express Toll Lane Report financial assumptions, methods, and forecasts consistent with industry standards?

### **Supporting Questions from ERP, EAG and Public**

1. Is the financing fair across the state's regions?
2. Do the toll revenue projections stand up to peer projects?
  - a. Should we take SR 167 into consideration as a comparable project?
  - b. Do revenue projections support the costs to implement an express toll lanes system and build new projects?
3. Could these projects be paid for with another gas tax – how much would it have to be?
4. Is there something that shows what tolls people are willing to pay?