

## Impact of I-405 HOT Lanes in Bellevue Area (under Toll Lanes Modelling)

Judy Clark & Dave Tallent

City of Bellevue, Washington

WSDOT completed the I-405/SR 167 Eastside Corridor Tolling study, which looked at converting the existing I-405 HOV lane to an express toll lane and building a new lane for a two-lane express toll system on I-405.

Forecasts done for and by the State Department of transportation focused on could the 45 mph speed be maintained and would the toll revenues be sufficient to cover operating expenses. An expert review panel found that WSDOT's I-405/SR 167 Eastside Corridor Tolling Study financial assumptions, methods and forecasts are valid.

WSDOT used sound planning and engineering practices consistent with industry standards to analyze the operational performance of I-405/SR 167 corridor express toll lanes.

Since then State House Bill 1382, which allows tolling some lanes of I-405 was signed by the Governor in May of 2011. The NE 6th St. to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lane Project plan is to designate two I-405 lanes in each direction, including parts of segments that would be built starting next year, as "express toll" lanes open to buses and carpools. Like experimental "high-occupancy toll" (HOT) lanes on Highway 167, the 405 lanes would be open to solo drivers who could pay to use them with tolls varying by time of day and traffic, up to \$9. A system could be in place by 2014 a provision that 405 HOT lanes could be shut down after two years if they weren't producing enough money to pay for the tolling operation.

City transportation managers asked that this along with other regional project be represented in the BKR (Bellevue Kirkland Redmond). For this purpose staff related to different issues than the issues that were important for WSDOT. Specifically to code the lanes at true capacity and show free use by SOV mode and tolling for non SOV vehicles.

Having done this we feel that the method works when the objectives are understanding the true demand and dispersal impacts.