

October 19, 2010 Portland Actuarial Club Luncheon

Title: *Electronic Tolling, Variable Pricing, and the Future of Oregon's Highway System*
Speaker: *John A. Charles, Jr., President and CEO - Cascade Policy Institute*
When: Tuesday October 19, 2010 at 12:00 noon Heathman Hotel – Broadway Room 1001
Where: SW Broadway Portland, OR 97205
RSVP: Please RSVP by **October 14th at 10:00 am** at our website:
www.PortlandActuarialClub.org/contact/rsvp/
RSVPs received later than the deadline will incur an additional \$5 fee.

Electronic Tolling, Variable Pricing, and the Future of Oregon's Highway System

Oregon's highway system suffers from a lack of investment and a severe mismatch between supply and demand at peak hours in urban areas. As a result, traffic congestion is growing and the economy is suffering from a loss of productivity. Technological innovation now allows motorists to pay for road use in real time with transponders, and variable toll rates can ensure that traffic is kept in free-flowing conditions. Electronic tolling also generates the revenue necessary for the next round of highway expansion.

This presentation will discuss the theoretical benefits of market-based road pricing, the empirical results of variable road pricing to date, and present a vision for reform in the Portland metro area.

About the Speaker

John A. Charles, Jr. was named President and CEO of Cascade Policy Institute in May, 2005. Cascade is a free-market think tank working to promote individual liberty, economic opportunity, and personal responsibility. The organization has a 2010 budget of \$1.1 million, 12 employees, and offices in Portland and McMinnville.

Mr. Charles joined Cascade in 1997 as Environmental Policy Director. His research has focused on transportation, land use, energy, and free-market environmentalism. He is a frequent keynote speaker and guest lecturer, and has made presentations in 27 states. He has also been published in newspapers around the country including *The Oregonian*, *Pittsburgh Times-Review*, *Hartford Courant*, and *Seattle Times*.

Prior to joining the Institute, Mr. Charles was executive director of the Oregon Environmental Council for 17 years. During that time he served on dozens of local, state and federal commissions and advisory boards related to environmental protection. Charles was also an active participant in Oregon legislative proceedings, and helped author numerous environmental statutes in the areas of forest management, toxic substances, air pollution, watershed restoration, and transportation.

Mr. Charles began his career in 1977 as an executive assistant with Environmental Defense Fund in New York City.

Mr. Charles received a BA degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976 and an MPA degree from Portland State University in 1990. He is a Pittsburgh native and grew up in the suburbs of northern New Jersey.