

DRAFT – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

July 28, 2004

Key questions for CRC – Just the Basics

What is the CRC project and how does it differ from the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership project completed in 2002?

The I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership project was a planning study of the I-5 corridor and related freight facilities, looking at a wide range of corridor-wide improvements and traffic management recommendations. The result of this study, the *I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Strategic Plan*, included recommendations for the I-5 corridor. Two recommendations were adding capacity over the Columbia River and consideration of high capacity transit improvements in the area of the I-5 Columbia River bridge.

The **Columbia River Crossing Project** focuses on those two key recommendations. Additional technical analysis is under way and the intent is to make a smooth transition between the Strategic Plan and the beginning of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, (define DEIS).

Why are we doing all this analysis now?

The technical work that is currently being done is in anticipation of formally entering the EIS process next summer or fall. There is lots of early preparation work that could save dollars and time in the future. Lead federal agencies, such as FHWA and FTA need to be engaged in our project and a process to work with possibly both the agencies must be defined and agreed upon. Washington and Oregon must come together and reach agreement on a management structure for this project.

What exactly will the technical work tell us?

The technical work will further define and refine the concept recommendations developed in the I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership Study. Some concepts that were not part of the original study will be analyzed. The technical work includes studies such as traffic analysis, key engineering considerations related to construction, environmental concerns, and how the project could be financed. Washington and Oregon have different regulatory requirements that need to be analyzed. All these analysis will help inform the future scoping and DEIS process.

What is the geographic area for the project?

What is the project schedule?

Who are the agencies involved in this project?