

Front Cover:

The Columbia River Crossing Project

- **Where we've been**
- **Where we are now**
- **What's coming up**

Report on Project Status to Joint Commission Subcommittee
September 2, 2004

The Joint Commission Subcommittee heard in May about preliminary work to kick off the Columbia River Crossing Project. Now, WSDOT and ODOT management and the joint project team will brief the Subcommittee on significant progress made since that time – in work activities, contractual milestones, and technical work products.

Photos of I-5 in north Portland and Vancouver; Columbia River Bridge; bus on I-5; cranes and port stuff???

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

2001-2002

What are the origins of the Columbia River Crossing Project? The 2001-2002 *I-5 Transportation and Trade Partnership* brought together the region's interests, who developed a shared vision for the Columbia River Crossing corridor. Within the recommendations of the Partnership Task Force, multiple concepts emerged for further study. Key components – freeway, transit, ~~e~~ommuter rail, finance, and environmental justice – fit within the framework of the today's joint ODOT/WSDOT Columbia River Crossing Project. *Other recommended components fall to other regional entities for next steps, including freight rail, to be addressed through a Bi-State Rail Forum, and land use, the jurisdiction of the MPOs. (With Matt's guidance on rail, I would take out this italic text. Agree? [yes](#))*

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WHAT'S DRIVING THIS PROJECT? (like a "Did you know" box)

- The I-5 Interstate Bridge across the Columbia is actually two bridges side-by-side, built in 1917 and 1958. They work today, in combination with the I-205 Columbia River Bridge, but what about tomorrow?
- A world-class economy in the Vancouver/Portland region needs world-class infrastructure. Business continually cites freight and commuter congestion and safety as top regional issues.
- Two states are involved, but the issues are shared. Strong commitment exists from both sides of the river to move ahead with improvements in the Columbia River Crossing area.

WHERE WE ARE...

2004-2005

Laying a strong foundation for the EIS phase of the project is the goal for 2004-2005. Technical, organizational, and communications work is under way to support further analysis and regional policy decisions.

Insert middle part of graphic here – working with Amy to simplify per her comments

JOINT PROJECT TEAM CHARTERED

Since the last Joint Commission Subcommittee meeting, the WSDOT/ODOT project team has (The MOU defines the Project Team as Conrad, Rosenberger, Garrett, Wagner, DeGraff and Himes):

- Framed joint team management -- named project co-directors and co-located them.
- Agreed on how to work together -- developed ODOT/WSDOT project team MOU and draft charter for advisory task force.
- Reached out as a bi-state team to regional partners, including FHWA, FTA, MPOs, Bi-State Coordination Committee, Regional Coordinating Committee, transit agencies (the DOTs “reached out “ to everyone on this list except FHWA and FTA well before the meeting in May – the *Project Directors* have been meeting jointly with individual regional partners, business groups etc since I was brought on in June
- Met contracting milestones to engage needed talents. Now under contract are:
 - Larkin Group, with Siegel and Underhill – Intergovernmental Coordination and Regulatory Issues (Larkin is doing all the big picture thinking about scoping, and getting organized for the EIS – don’t know how to describe that in English)
 - David Evans and Associates, with Parisi and Vollmer – Traffic and Tolling
 - Kittelson Associates, with PB, CH2MHill, ROW, Howell, and JD White – Conceptual Engineering and Environmental
 - HNTB, to EnviroIssues, with JD White, Markgraf, and Northwest Strategies – Communications and Outreach

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MAKING PROGRESS ON TECHNICAL WORK PRODUCTS

To build a sound foundation for the EIS phase, a range of questions are being answered – which will help define the project alternatives in mid-2005. At this point, the team has prepared the following and is discussing them at the regional leadership level:

- Memorandum of Understanding between WSDOT & ODOT regarding CRC Project Management drafted – *see Agenda Item #2 (we aren't discussing this with anyone but ourselves and the commissioners)*
- Columbia River Crossing Task Force Charter developed – citizen oversight structure proposed – *see Agenda Item #3*
- TM 6.1 – Introduction to Tolling and Survey of Tolling Experience
Status: Draft circulated for review; comments received and incorporated; report now final.
- TM 8.1 – Analysis of Issues Affecting Columbia River Crossing Options caused by Federal Tolling Statutes
Status: First draft circulated for review.
- TM 8.6.1 – Analysis of State of Oregon Tolling Statutes
Status: First draft circulated for review.
- TM 4.3, on Traffic and Travel Characteristics and Trends
Status: Circulated for review and finalized.
- Working Paper 3.1 – Identification and Evaluation of Toll Models and WP3.3 – Identification and Evaluation of Toll Plaza Models
Status: Circulated for review, comment and finalized
- Working Paper 2.6 - Existing Information Data Review for Screening Alternatives and Tolling Options
Status: First draft circulated for review

BUDGET AND COST STATUS

Need Geoff's budget piece in non-PDF, and we will insert it and add Dale's info. I will call him, but this is where it would go.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

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