

January – March 2010

During the first quarter of 2010, CRC held an open house in Vancouver about light rail alignments for downtown. This resulted in an increase of transit related comments, although it did not generate a significant amount of news coverage. A Hayden Island open house was also held to continue the discussion of the refinement recommendation from November 2009 and its effect on the Hayden Island interchange design. A majority of the comments and media coverage reflected an ongoing political debate surrounding letters exchanged between the Oregon and Washington governors and four local elected officials from Portland and Vancouver. The topic of the letters primarily dealt with the decision making process.

Public Comments Received

The project received 191 individual emails, comment forms and comment summaries, letters, and phone calls between January 1, 2010, and March 31, 2010. Staff also prepared summaries of anonymous public comments gathered at CRC outreach events during this period

Public comments in their entirety are available upon request. This summary is a snapshot in time and does not represent a scientific survey.

Public Comment Sources

A comment source is defined as an individual written or spoken comment or as multiple anonymous spoken comments made at a public outreach event, as summarized by staff. A single comment source can address multiple topics, so is then broken down into comment categories. The total number of comments is greater than the number of individual comment sources.

Between January and March we received comments from the following sources:

85 Email Comments	27 US Mail/Hand-delivered letters
77 Comment Forms	4 Outreach Event Summaries
48 Transcribed Comments	2 Phone Conversations

The comment sources listed above included comments that were categorized into the following categories. Only the categories which received more than 20 comments are listed.

153 Transit	31 Tolling
141 Process and Schedule	29 Air Quality
77 Cost, Funding and Financing	25 Bicycle and Pedestrian
59 Land Use and Economic Activity	24 Range of Alternatives
55 Neighborhoods	23 Parking
37 Congestion and Traffic	22 Noise and Vibration
32 Acquisitions and Right of Way	20 Construction Effects

Public Comment Themes

Comments received between January and March 2010 reflected a variety of themes, with comments on Transit, Process, Funding and Financing, and Land Use and Economic Activity the most frequent. This marked the first time since May 2009 that Tolling related comments were not among the four most commonly received topics.

Funding and Financing

Concerns were expressed over project costs, including potential impacts to the federal debt, local economy, and other transportation priorities. Support was received for using fuel taxes, income taxes, property taxes, state-wide license fees and/or federal funding in lieu of tolls.

Transit

Two CRC project open houses were held in February to discuss the potential Vancouver light rail alignment, resulting in a large number of alignment-related comments. Comments supporting a 17th Street alignment included statements that this alignment is consistent with zoning, that it will increase property values and encourage redevelopment, and that it will protect existing pedestrian, bicycling, bus transit, and traffic operations on McLoughlin Boulevard. Opposition to a 17th Street alignment included concerns of a loss of residential character and rental income, as well as perceived noise, parking, pedestrian safety, and construction impacts to local residents.

Process

Process comments included requests for speakers at events, statements that public involvement has been inadequate, and statements that the project has gone too slowly.

Land Use and Economic Activity

Concerns in this category included project-induced suburban sprawl and negative impacts to Hayden Island and Vancouver businesses. Supporters viewed the CRC project as a job creator.

Where We've Been

Between January and March, the project team had a presence at the 21 events below. Number of people engaged is in parentheses (n/a indicates events where attendees were not counted or were counted before).

Oregon

- Loaves & Fishes lunch for seniors, Hayden Island Manufactured Homes Community (20)
- Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, Coffee and Issues Forum (120)
- Society of Automotive Engineers (15)
- Hayden Island Open House (110)
- ODOT environmental coordinators quarterly meeting (n/a)
- Bridgeton Neighborhood Association (25)
- East Columbia Neighborhood Association (15)
- Portland Air Cargo Association (14)
- Piedmont Neighborhood Association (40)
- Travel Oregon (n/a)
- ODOT Surveyors Conference (130)
- Professional Engineers of Oregon , Columbia Chapter (18)
- PDXplore (n/a)



Vancouver residents speak with CRC project staff about the proposed Vancouver light rail alignments at one of two community meetings

Washington

- Washington State Senate Transportation Committee (n/a)
- Washington State House Transportation Committee (n/a)
- Vancouver City Council work session (n/a)
- WSDOT Design/Construction Conference (n/a)
- Vancouver Light Rail Alignment Community Meetings (50 and 40)
- Vancouver City Council work session (n/a)
- Vancouver City Council special meeting on Vancouver light rail alignment (n/a)

The Totals

January – March total:

- **597 people** engaged at **21 events**

Since October 2005:

- **22,265 outreach contacts** at **751 events**

Project Advisory Group Meetings

Between January and March, the following CRC project advisory groups met:

- Performance Measures Advisory Group (1/6)
- Portland Working Group (1/13, 3/10)
- Project Sponsors Council (1/22, 3/12)
- Vancouver Working Group (2/4)
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee (2/23)



Members of the CRC Performance Measures Advisory Group presenting at the January Project Sponsors Council meeting