

July - September 2010

During the third quarter of 2010, two intensive review processes concluded: Independent Review Panel and Integrated Project Sponsors process. The Independent Review Panel released its final report to the Governors of Oregon and Washington, stating overall support for the project, and making 30 recommendations for moving the project forward. The recommendations were related to bridge type and design, project phasing, public involvement, the interchange at Marine Drive and Hayden Island, long term project management, and updating the cost estimate.

Throughout the third quarter, three issues-specific open houses and public meetings were held; a meeting was held on Hayden Island to discuss the Hayden Island interchange, an open house on the downtown Vancouver light rail station area design, and an open house for construction contractors. These events were all well attended by the public and generated a significant amount of public comment. The project also continued to be present at local fairs and festivals.

Public Comments Received

The project received 277 individual emails, comment forms, letters, and verbal comments between July 1, 2010, and September 30, 2010. Staff also gathered 22 public comments from 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 July and September, CRC received comments from the following sources:

113 Email Comments	22 Outreach Event Summaries
79 US Mail/Hand-delivered letters	11 Transcribed Comments
74 Comment Forms	

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

274 Process (incl. Schedule)	87 Tolling
146 Bridge, Interchange and Highway Design	80 Neighborhoods
129 Transit	70 Congestion and Traffic
105 Cost, Funding and Financing	50 Truck Freight
127 Land Use and Economic Activity	45 Bridge Replacement
93 Auxiliary and Add/Drop Lanes	31 Bicycle and Pedestrian
88 Range of Alternatives	25 Highway Safety

Public Comment Themes

Comments received in the third quarter of 2010 reflected a variety of themes, with comments on process; bridge, interchange and highway design; transit; and land use and economic activity the most frequent.

Process

Although a majority of process related comments expressed a desire to move quickly into construction, comments critical of the project’s processes were also received. Concerns about process included statements that the project is not taking the public’s desires into account, that there is no community consensus on the project, and that the decision-making process itself is flawed. Some commenters who were critical of the project also questioned spending money to refine the current design.

Bridge, Interchange & Highway Design

Although criticisms of the overall project design were received (see comments under “Process” above), comments from Hayden Island residents included support of the new arterial bridge concept. Comments were also received for and against prioritizing the aesthetics of the replacement bridge.

Transit

The September light rail open house resulted in many comments and questions related to transit, including those on the topic of lower downtown Vancouver park and ride location and design. The majority of commenters on the transit element of the project were specifically supportive of light rail. Those critical of transit cited concerns about transit safety as well as statements that those living in Clark County had voted against light rail in the past.

Land Use & Economic Activity

The most frequent comment received during the third quarter was the importance of the CRC project for job creation. Comments were also received specifically identifying the importance of improving I-5 as an important trade route. Comments stressing the importance of connectivity – whether within neighborhoods or between neighborhoods and business areas – were also a recurring theme, especially in regard to Hayden Island.

Where We’ve Been

Between July and September, the project team had a presence at the 33 events below. Number of people engaged is in parentheses (n/a indicates events where attendees were not counted or were counted before).

Oregon

- Portland Freight Committee and Vancouver Freight Alliance (n/a)
- Linnton Neighborhood Association (18)
- Cycle Oregon policymakers ride (125)
- King's Farmers Market (26)
- Eliot Neighborhood Associations (14)
- Portland Rotary (135)
- University Club (30)
- Portland Sunday Parkways: Outer Southeast (79)
- Overlook Neighborhood Association (19)
- American Society of Professional Estimators (35)
- University Park Neighborhood Association (16)
- National Night Out: Hayden Island Manufactured Home Community (33)
- Hayden Island Interchange public meeting (121)
- Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (n/a)
- Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) A&E/Contractors Forum (120)
- Portland Sunday Parkways: Southeast (84)
- St. John's Farmers Market (41)
- OAME Coffee and Issues Forum (n/a)



Conversation with bicyclist at the Portland Sunday Parkways - Southeast

- Construction Contractors Open House (56)
- Bella Vista Neighborhood Association (15)

Washington

- 4th Plain International Food Festival (66)
- Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (18)
- Battle Ground Harvest Days (91)
- Ho'ike and Hawaiian Festival (127)
- Identity Clark County Board Meeting (n/a)
- Western Planners Conference (10)
- Port of Ridgefield Commissioner's Picnic (71)
- Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Board (20)
- Utility Coordinating Councils: Joint States Meeting (40)
- West Precinct Public Safety Open House (55)
- Downtown Vancouver Light Rail Design Open House (103)
- Esther Short Neighborhood Association (25)



The Totals

July – September:

- **1593 people** engaged at **32 events**

In addition, the CRC Independent Review Panel held two public meetings during July.

The public viewing a light rail station concept at the downtown Vancouver light rail open house

Project Advisory Group Meetings

Between July and September, the following CRC project advisory groups met:

- Freight Working Group (7/13)
- Project Sponsors Council (7/16)
- Project Sponsors Council (8/9)
- Vancouver Transit Advisory Committee Tour (7/19)
- Vancouver Transit Advisory Committee (7/21)
- Vancouver Transit Advisory Committee (9/15)
- Portland Working Group (7/13)
- Portland Working Group (9/8)
- Portland Working Group subcommittee (9/21)
- Portland Working Group subcommittee (9/28)
- Integrated Project Sponsors Council Staff (9/22)