

What We're Hearing

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

Source of Comments	Qty.
Emailed comments	28
Phone conversations	5
Outreach event summaries	4
Origin and destination survey comments	1
Letters via U.S. mail	1
Comment form responses	1
Total comment sources	40

NOTE: A comment source is defined as an individual's written comments or as multiple spoken comments from a public outreach event, as summarized by staff. Because a single comment source can address multiple topics, the total number of comments (below) is greater than the number of individual comment sources (above).

Comment Category	Qty.
Transit (incl. light rail, bus rapid transit, and transit safety)	35
Process (incl. schedule)	24
Tolling	21
Funding and Financing (incl. cost)	19
Land Use and Economic Activity	11
Range of Alternatives	11
Congestion and Traffic	10
Bicycle and Pedestrian	8
Neighborhoods	6
Truck Freight	6
Auxiliary and Add/Drop Lanes	5
Stacked Transit/Highway Bridge (two-structures) and non-stacked (three-structures)	5
Visual and Aesthetic Qualities	5

NOTE: Listed above are only those topics receiving five or more comments.

Public Comment Themes

Comments submitted in May reflected a variety of topics, with comments about Transit, Process, Tolling, and Funding and Financing having the greatest frequency.

Transit

Though a wide range of transit related comments were submitted in May, support and opposition to light rail were the most frequent. Supporters (six comments) said that light rail would ease congestion and that it is an important element of the CRC project. Light rail opponents (four comments) cited concerns about the high cost of constructing the system and doubt that ridership will be high enough to offset the operation costs. Two additional commenters said that, although they supported light rail, they were concerned that there is not enough political support or funding for it at this time.

Process

Comments about process covered a wide range of topics. A few commenters expressed frustration that citizens will not have a chance to vote on whether the bridge is tolled. One commenter asked why the project team is considering reconstructing the interchange at Columbia Boulevard since they were "changed in the last 10 years." Another commenter asked why the current bridges will be replaced when the Washington State Department of Transportation inspection report states that the current bridges have a "life span of approximately 10-20 years."

Tolling

In May, four comments indicated support of tolling, one of whom suggested that tolls be high enough to eliminate nearly all discretionary trips. Twelve comments indicated opposition to tolling, with concerns ranging from a perceived financial burden on low-income populations and commuters, to potential confusion among tourists

about how to pay the toll in the absence of toll booths.

Funding and Financing

Funding and financing comments included concerns that the project costs are too high. Some commenters suggested ways to reduce the cost of the project, such as eliminating light rail, reducing the number of lanes on the bridge, and focusing on the functionality of the bridge rather than the aesthetics. Other commenters stated that the federal government should pay for a majority of the project because the project will benefit citizens outside of the region.

Where We've Been

In May, the CRC project team had a presence at the 10 events listed below. The number of people engaged is in parentheses (n/a indicates events where attendees were not counted or have been counted before).

Oregon

- Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee (30)
- Columbia Crossings (3)
- Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee (20)
- Jantzen Beach Moorage Inc. (11)

Washington

- Public Employees Recognition Week (20)
- Shumway Neighborhood Association (23)
- Glenwood Place Senior Living (20)
- Rotary, East Vancouver Chapter (8)
- North Salmon Creek Neighborhood (40)
- Kiwanis, Ft. Vancouver Chapter (28)

The Totals

This month:

183 people engaged at **10 events**

Since October 2005:

18,552 outreach contacts at **625 events**

Where We're Going

As of this writing, the CRC project team is scheduled to attend the following events in June. Event dates are in parentheses.

Oregon

- Kenton Neighborhood Association annual meeting (6/10)
- Hayden Island Neighborhood Network (6/11)
- Jantzen Beach Moorage Inc. right of way meeting (6/15)
- Portland Sunday Parkways bicycle event (6/21)
- CRC Open House (6/23)
- Good in the Neighborhood (6/27)

Washington

- SW Washington Regional Transportation Council (6/2)
- WSDOT SR-500/St. Johns open house (6/3)
- Vancouver Executive Association (6/4)
- Vancouver Farmers Market (6/14)
- Hough Neighborhood Association (6/16)
- CRC Open House (6/24)
- CRC Listening Session, Tolling Study Committee (6/30)

Project Advisory Group Meetings

In June, the following CRC project advisory groups will be meeting:

- Project Sponsors Council (6/5)
- Portland Working Group (6/10)
- Community & Environmental Justice Group (6/18)
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee (6/24)
- Vancouver Working Group (6/25)

For more information, please contact the CRC office at 1-866-396-2726.