

COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the oversight process and review responsibilities between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project.

The purpose of the CRC project is to improve the mobility, reliability, accessibility, and safety for automobile, freight, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian users of the I-5 corridor from State Route 500 in Vancouver to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland. Solutions to transportation problems in the corridor will be developed through a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that includes completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) leading to a Record of Decision and construction.

The project is a high priority for the project sponsors: Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), Metropolitan Service District (Metro), Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (C-TRAN), and Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet). ODOT and WSDOT serve as the primary co-sponsors. The FHWA and FTA are federal co-lead agencies for the CRC project.

The CRC project is highly complex. Successful completion will require close coordination and complete cooperation of the project sponsors. As the federal co-lead agencies, FHWA and FTA have a unique and vital role to play. The agencies must coordinate with the project sponsors while also demonstrating accountability for the environmental and preliminary engineering process and project expenditures. To this end, FHWA and FTA desire to establish procedures for communication and reporting and to agree upon an allocation of responsibilities with respect to particular components of the project. FHWA and FTA intend to work together cooperatively to achieve a “one federal agency” approach to the CRC project.

Listed in Attachment A, Version 1 are the major work activities through development of the environmental and preliminary engineering stages that sets forth the processes and approvals that FHWA and FTA will follow during the project. Additionally, all parties understand that the CRC project meets the definition of a “Major” project as defined by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Section 1904, and will meet the requirements of the Act. This project will proceed as a FTA New Starts project and will comply with all New Starts Guidance and regulations.

Modifications to this MOU will be required to address additional work activities required for development of the final design and construction of the project.

To accommodate changes in the processes and agency requirements, this MOU should be viewed as an evolving document that may be modified as necessary. A decision will be made between FHWA and FTA on how to amend this MOU. In the event this MOU is not amended or does not address required processes or requirements, each Federal Agency will fall back to their standard oversight or stewardship agreements and processes relating to the specific work activities involved.

This agreement can be terminated upon 30-days notice to all parties.

For the Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Division:

David Cox, Division Administrator

For the Federal Highway Administration, Washington Division:

Daniel M. Mathis, Division Administrator

For the Federal Transit Administration, Region 10:

Rick F. Krochalis, Regional Administrator

ATTACHMENT A, VERSION 1

Work Activities/Components

Work Activities/Components	FHWA Process	FTA Process	FHWA Approval	FTA Approval
Environmental:				
Notice of Intent	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purpose and Need	✓	✓	✓	✓
Methods and Data Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
ESA Biological Assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Section 4(f) & 6(f) Evaluation	✓		✓	✓
Section 106 MOA	✓		✓	✓
Consultation with affected Indian Tribes	✓		✓	✓
Draft EIS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Final EIS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Record of Decision	✓	✓	✓	✓
NEPA Re-Evaluations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Preliminary Engineering:				
Preliminary Engineering (PE) Authorization	✓	✓	✓	✓
Draft and Final Design Criteria	✓		✓	
Design Approval	✓		✓	
WSDOT Interchange Justification Report	✓		✓	
ODOT Interchange Modification Request	✓		✓	
Draft Design Decision Summary	✓		✓	
Proprietary Items with Public Interest Funding	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buy America Compliance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complex Structure Type Approval (TS&L)	✓		✓	
Project Management Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Starts:				
New Starts Package		✓		✓
Problem Statement, Goals and Objectives		✓		✓
Definition of Alternatives		✓		✓
Documentation of Study Assumptions, Results, and Methodologies		✓		✓
Selection of New Starts Baseline Alternative		✓		✓
LPA from AA adopted in region's financially constrained long range plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Demonstration of technical capability to undertake PE		✓		✓
Annual New Starts Report		✓		✓
Financial Plan:				
Financial Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓