



From: [me](#)
To: [Columbia River Crossing;](#)
CC:
Subject: columbia river crossing proposed toll
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 9:51:30 AM
Attachments:

Hi, I just read the article in the Oregonian on your proposed addition of a toll on the I5 bridge and here's my input. (I don't have a car i gave it up a couple of months ago so i have direct knowledge of the public transportation here in Vancouver and Portland and i've depended on public transportation in many other cities that i've lived in). you need to seriously consider the cost of a toll and the inconvenience of using public transportation to the working families and working poor who **have** to drive their car. there are many reasons a person needs to cross the river other than work such as medical apt, family visits, shopping and childrens sporting events that require carrying the equipment with them. these reasons represent possible multiple crossings so the toll expense would be prohibitive and burdensome in addition to the increased time to a parents schedule that's already stretched and stressful. using a bus with small children is extremely difficult. i see many people who struggle to carry their babies and small children with them along with stroller, diaper bag and groceries etc. therefore they must make multiple bus trips just to complete their errands.

however with this being said you should encourage the use of public transportation across the bridge. it should be free instead of having a toll as the incentive to use public transportation . and you would have to improve the public it here in Vancouver. It is worse then any city that ive lived in, including smaller cities. ive supported public transportation for several years. free public transportation would be a powerful incentive to get people out of their cars. and the public and environment is better served by improving public transportation then providing for the continuing use of cars. of course you would need to add park and rides and you would still need to put in the max so to make the crossing less time consuming then caravaning buses across the river. adding the max and free public transportation would be considerably less expensive then a new or improved bridge. the max would be a must if you want job commuters to get out of their car. the current bus service across the bridge is

very poor because of the time wasted waiting for a bus. the max can carry many more commuters faster and more comfortably than a bus system.

in the meantime while you're building the max crossing you should increase the express bus service between portland and vancouver along with adding more inner city routes if you want to decrease the bridge traffic. currently in vancouver it takes at least an hour to travel by bus for a ten minute car drive.

I think it would be arrogant of anyone to make a decision to encourage public transportation until her or she has depended on it for at least a week. with this being said I applaud your proposal to encourage the use of public transportation. but public officials have not done nearly enough to encourage its use. remember the adage "if you build it they will come". You would be very shortsighted in your decision to only consider the upfront cost of my proposal. the cost for beefing up public transportation will never be covered immediately you must consider the long range economical and environmental benefits. You would have immediate and permanent long range savings due to less road improvements, less need for traffic cops, less emergency response teams due to fewer traffic accidents, just to name a few unquestionable facts.

thank you

cynthia white